FBIS DAILY REPORT

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ATTEMPTS BY U.S. CRITICS TO 'EMASCULATE' SALT ACCORD HIT

LD131013Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by IZVESTIYA political commentator V. Matveyev: "Who Is Opposing a New Agreement?"]

[Text] The reaction of various circles in the United States to the 11 February PRAVDA editorial article devoted to an examination of the prospects and problems of strategic arms limitation in connection with the talks continuing between the USSR and the United States confirms the unseemly fuss being made across the ocean by those who, contrary to the predominant mood in the country, would like to delay or completely frustrate an accord on this key question of current international relations.

We are not talking about some incidental, episodic statements which can be explained by inadequate information on the part of certain given representatives of the mass media in the United States. Behind the authors of such statements stand more powerful forces representating circles in the Pentagon and the U.S. military-industrial complex. They would like to brainwash the public to an attitude favorable to their interests and make no secret of their agitation over the fact that the Soviet Union has clearly pointed out who in the United States--and why--is putting the wrenches in the works of the Soviet-American talks.

The opponents of an agreement at these talks became particularly active when the prospects for achieving such an agreement emerged, when definite progress toward solutions to the major unsettled questions developed due to the USSR's consistent and constructive line and also to elements of flexibility and realism displayed by the official American side.

It was in the fall of 1977 that a clamorous campaign about the alleged emergent "risk" to the United States was mounted in a number of American press organs, on television and in Congress. For example, on 2 November the WALL STREET JOURNAL excited its readers' imaginations with speculation about the impossibility of verifying limitations. This would allegedly "enable the Russians to practice deception...." In its 14 November issue U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT--a magazine close to the Pentagon--playing on the thesis of "the defense of U.S. security," shamelessly concocted a new nuclear war scenario, alleging that by the mid-eighties the USSR would be "in a position" to destroy up to 90 percent of U.S. Minuteman missiles!

No verbal subterfuge can conceal the pointed and unseemly objective of this campaign. The people behind it are striving for U.S. implementation of programs for the deployment of new types of weapons, which contradicts the basis of the talks being conducted between the USSR and the United States.

The Soviet Union continues to stress that until real disarmament begins, the fundamental task is to prevent a further twist to the arms race spiral, primarily with respect to the most lethal kinds of arms.

This is why the CPSU Central Committee report to the 25th party congress emphasized the great importance of achieving a mutually binding accord with the United States which would--in addition to limiting existing types of strategic weapons--prohibit the development of new and even more destructive weapons.

Realistic figures in the United States are also aware of the importance to the vital interests of their country of the inclusion in the new agreement of a mutually binding accord on renouncing the creation of new and even more destructive weapons. Without such an accord it will hardly be possible to achieve other measures and steps to curb the strategic arms race, and even more difficult to reduce such arms. The late Democratic Senator H. Humphrey, who died recently, said during a congressional debate in the spring of 1977: "We have tried competition in the arms field, and it has not improved our security at all."

There are many sensible arguments of this kind to be heard in the United States, but they are opposed by the incessant pressure which the military-industrial complex brings to bear on the determination of the administration's political course. Representatives of this powerful sector in the United States are increasingly emphasizing spurring on the arms race through the qualitative improvement of nuclear forces.

According to American figures, the mirving of 550 (out of 1,000) Minuteman missiles has more than doubled the total number of nuclear warheads in the U.S. strategic armory. Halfway through last year the White House decided to adopt the new MK-12A nuclear warhead to increase the precision and strike power of the Minuteman-3 missile. The Trident missile complex for new submarines is being created.

Where is such activity leading? Toward a dangerous intensification of the arms race. Every serious action in this area which affects the crux of national security cannot fail to cause the other side to take exception.

The Pentagon is now seeking approval for work on the new MX ICBM, which would be partially deployed on mobile launchers. Eminent U.S. specialists make no secret of the fact that such work will complicate the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks.

The question of cruise missiles is of the most serious significance for the outcome of the Soviet-American talks. The New York TIMES noted on 4 September 1977 that two leading U.S. military concerns--General Dynamics and Boeing--are competing for "the potentially vast cruise missile market." For the weapons manufacturers this is a struggle for further billions in riches. For U.S. politicians and strategists accustomed to thinking in "cold war" terms it is an obsessive hope of achieving military "supremacy."

No matter how a situation develops, the important thing is the result. Here the result is that, because of the position occupied by the American side on this question, the strategic arms talks have been logjammed for a protracted period. Washington persistently refused to discuss the question of limitations on long-range cruise missiles. But now that the question of such limitations has been largely settled, "critics" of such an accord have appeared on the U.S. scene, either proposing that it be completely torpedoed or attempting in practice to emasculate the agreed limitations.

The Soviet side unequivocally points out that in such an eventuality it would be a question, not of an agreement on limitations, but of a mere scrap of paper, and the USSR would not sign it.

The opponents of an agreement with the Soviet Union based on the principles of equality and identical security are also resorting to other devices in their attempts to obtain one-sided advantages for the United States at our country's expense. [paragraph continues]

The groundless question of monitoring the fulfillment of the agreement being prepared between the USSR and the United States is being raised, although the U.S. President himself emphasized in a mid-October speech the "satisfactory" nature of the possibilities of insuring such monitoring.

The truth is that such monitoring would be considerably complicated if the circles sponsoring the cruise missile production and deployment program and other programs for the deployment of new types and systems of strategic weapons were to get their way.

The propaganda fuss over the medium Soviet bomber known as the Backfire is continuing in the United States with the most unconscientious [nedobrosovestnyy] objectives. Those behind this fuss claim that this aircraft is in the category of strategic weapons. In that case, what about U.S. aircraft carriers and their aircraft or U.S. tactical aircraft at NATO bases in Western Europe, from which they can reach Soviet territory? This is what eminent American scientist H. Scoville has written on this: "I would exclude the Backfire from calculations linked with strategic arms because its value for intercontinental missions is questionable."

In one way or another those circles in the United States which link their narrowly selfish calculations or far-reaching but essentially unfeasible and unsound political calculations and schemes with the intensification of the arms race are joining forces against the new strategic arms limitation agreements being prepared between the USSR and the United States. They are essentially attempting to throw out a challenge not only to the Soviet Union but to their own country and their own people, who objectively have an interest equally as great as the Soviet people in putting an end to the strategic arms race.

What has been said fully applies to the attempts by individual official U.S. spokesmen to "link" totally unrelated questions to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Many prominent political figures in the United States and observers condemn U.S. Presidential national security aide Z. Brzezinski's allegations about the "link" between the development of the situation in the Horn of Africa and the course of the above-mentioned Soviet-American talks. Certain commentators are reasonably asking whether Washington is thereby attempting to distract the public's attention from U.S. steps which complicate the course of these talks and make an agreement more difficult to achieve.

If you include the first stage, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks have already lasted for around 9 years. In this time they have encountered many difficulties, both objective and artificially caused--for which the Soviet side has not been to blame. Realism, flexibility, observance of mutual interests and good will have made it possible to overcome obstacles and make progress.

In his 24 February speech at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, pointed out that our country is in favor of the speediest completion of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks on the principles of equal security. This would represent a real breakthrough on the path toward military detente. We would like to hope that responsible figures in the United States realize how much is at stake, as they say.

BELGRADE CONFERENCE ACHIEVES POSITIVE RESULTS

LD130022Y Moscow in Polish to Poland 1700 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Vadim Nekrasov commentary]

[Text] The Belgrade meeting lasted almost 5 months. In the final document adopted by the participants of this important European forum, the states stressed the importance they attach to the detente that has been continuing since the signing of the final act despite obstacles. It is a very important decision which testifies to the will of the European nations to continue on the path begun in Helsinki. During the discussions in Belgrade's Sava Palace, frequent statements were made on the historic significance of this Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and also on the need to actively practice all resolutions of the final act. This act is a far-reaching approved program for consolidating peace, security and cooperation on the European Continent. The clear proof of the unanimity of views on this matter, which was also reflected in the short final document, is an important positive result of the Belgrade meeting.

It should be stressed that, owing to the efforts of the delegations from socialist states, the problems of security, cooperation and international detente were made the focus of interest. The socialist countries, being the real promoters of the spirit of Helsinki, put forward for discussion in the Belgrade forum serious and realistic proposals. First of all, there is the Soviet proposal concerning military detente in Europe. The socialist states also have put forward proposals concerning the broadening of European cooperation in environmental protection and also proposals on transportation and energy. The broad exchange of views in Belgrade on all these problems has proved that great possibilities exist for the development of all-European cooperation on the basis of the final act.

Positive contributions to the debates in the Belgrade forum were also made by the neutral states and some Western countries. However, the positive proposals put forward in Belgrade quite often met with attempts by the United States delegations and many of its partners within NATO to change the spirit and letter of the final act, and to change the character and content of the process which originated in Helsinki. The strategists of the policy of tension directed their efforts to steering the debates toward psychological war, to turning the debates into a platform for ideological scuffles. They tried (?to block) efforts for strengthening mutual understanding and trust among the states and nations of Europe, to sow seeds of discord and mistrust by mobilizing for this purpose a large propaganda apparatus.

As a result of the obstructionist policy of the U.S. delegation and some of its NATO allies, many constructive proposals put forward in Belgrade were not reflected in the final document. The agreement on taking positive steps toward limiting the arms race, and the agreement on further developing all forms of economic, scientific and technological cooperation, were not reached. The final document does not even include those initiatives of many socialist, neutral and Western states which gained general support and had been accepted during the past weeks--for example, the Yugoslav proposal on organizing in the near future a year of cultural cooperation among the countries that signed the final act.

But the attempts to turn the debates into an area of confrontation ended in failure. These attempts met with a proper rebuff by the socialist countries and other states which are aware of their responsibility for peace in Europe. In Belgrade the socialist states prevented a revision of the Helsinki resolutions. The discussions in Sava Palace once again confirmed that the path toward peace is truly difficult, but the knowledge of this fact does not provide a basis for pessimism. The Belgrade meeting fulfilled its task. The necessity of continuing the process of detente was defined at it. Sincere and broad discussions about the complicated processes now going on in Europe and in the whole world took place. As a result, the course leading to the peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems was set, a course of friendship and cooperation among nations.

PETROV HITS UK FOREIGN SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON BELGRADE

LD120724Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0320 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 12 March--TASS observer Aleksey Petrov writes:

David Owen, British secretary of state for foreign affairs, has decided to make a statement about the results of the Belgrade meeting of the 34 countries which participated in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Moreover, he has presented a White Paper to Parliament on this issue.

Alas, it would be fruitless to seek in it a single original idea, going beyond the framework of what the United States President said in a press interview a day before Mr Owen.

Recognizing the "importance and certain value" of the discussion which took place, the foreign office chief carried right on with deliberations on the theme of "the USSR's lack of readiness for broad and thorough impelementation of the provisions of the final act." And, of course, he did not forget to express "disappointment" about the opportunity which was missed to make several steps forward in the development of European cooperation.

One might think that the British foreign secretary had never heard of the developed program of concrete proposals on issues of military detente in Europe, expansion of European cooperation in the field of environmental conservation, transportation and power engineering put forward in Belgrade by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, or about the ideas concerning development of many-sided cooperation and strengthening of trust between states with differing structures.

One might think that he knows nothing about the attempts of the NATO countries, including his own, to use the Belgrade meeting not for the achievement of agreement about constructive steps in the spirit of Helsinki, but for very propagandist aims. Or that such attempts were wittingly doomed to failure.

No, Mr Foreign Secretary, you will not convince anybody (excluding, possibly, those who always count on heating up fruitless disputes) that the socialist countries are "not prepared" to enter upon expansion of cooperation with countries with different social systems. Meanwhile, no excess of such readiness is to be observed in the West itself.

U.S. EF[illegible] TO 'HARANGUE' BELGRADE CSCE SCORED

LD1100589Y Moscow In English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Konstantin Yuriyev commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union worked from the outset to give the Belgrade meeting a constructive character. The delegations from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries told the meeting about the versatile activities to implement the accords embodied in the Helsinki final act and made important proposals aimed at strengthening security. These include proposals not to use nuclear weapons first, not to enlarge the blocs existing in Europe, to freeze military budgets and so on. The socialist countries also took the initiative in proposing specific commercial, economic and cultural projects. These included proposals to hold European conferences on cooperation in transport, energy and the environment, to proclaim a European year of cultural cooperation, to sponsor festivals of folk art, art exhibitions, youth rallies and the like. Thanks to the consistent stand of the socialist countries, these matters of interest to millions of people were placed in the spotlight of the Belgrade meeting and this assured the value of the discussions held there.

Unfortunately, most of these topical initiatives of the socialist countries are not reflected in the final document of the Belgrade meeting. Why is this so? This was because the American delegation at the Sava Palace of Congresses in Belgrade had entirely different aims. It sought to turn to the meeting into a propagandist tribunal passing judgement on the socialist countries, to revise the meaning of the final act and to turn it into a screen for meddling in the affairs of other countries. Particularly zealous in this respect was the chief United States delegate, Arthur Goldberg, who took advantage of every opportunity to harangue the meeting about what he called human rights violations in the socialist countries. Unfortunately this demagogy was supported by the delegations from Great Britain, Federal Germany and several other NATO countries.

At the same time neither the American nor any other NATO delegation actually made a single proposal in Belgrade concerning the problems of disarmament, security or cooperation in Europe, which were supposed to be the main themes of the Belgrade meeting.

The delegations from the socialist countries firmly rebuffed these propagandist attacks and cited numerous instances of the violation of democracy on a mass scale in the United States and the countries of Western Europe. It is highly indicative, too, that the Belgrade meeting itself received many letters from American citizens and citizens of West European countries who were the victims of such violations. At the closing, editorial, stage of the meeting's work the American and certain other NATO delegations put forward certain demands in the form of an ultimatum. In this way they actually prevented the adoption of a fuller and more spedific final document although detailed drafts of such a document had been submitted by the Soviet Union and by neutral countries.

Despite all these shortcomings the Belgrade meeting is being summed up by the world press as on the whole having achieved positive results. What is the basis for this appraisal? The final document stresses the significance of the relaxation of international tension. It confirms the history-making role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and it expresses the readiness of the signatories to continue implementing the provisions of the Helsinki final act.

The exchange of views held in Belgrade is also summed up as useful, although naturally it was not on all the issues discussed that a consensus was reached. The setting down of all these points in the first collective document of the 35 countries since the Helsinki Conference is, needless to say, an event of no small importance. The final document also outlines a number of specific measures to follow up the multilateral process started at Helsinki. An important decision was taken on holding the next meeting of the Belgrade type at Madrid in June, 1980.

All these are useful and constructive steps in the very direction that was consistently championed from the outset at Belgrade by the delegations from the socialist countries. Another of the achievements at the meeting was its rejection of the attempts to tailor the Helsinki final act to suit the taste of those who would like to exploit the conditions of relaxation for subversive activities and psychological warfare against other countries.

BELGRADE RESULTS INSURE CONTINUATION OF DETENTE

LD112132Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1635 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Pavel Kashparov]

[Text] The Belgrade meeting has ended. State flags of the 35 countries--participants in the all-European conference in Helsinki--were seen in front of the Sava Congress Center for half a year. Aleksandr Shagin, our correspondent in Belgrade, is at the microphone: [recording begins]

Analyzing the work of the meeting and summing up the results, many journalists and diplomats note the positive role played by the Soviet Union and the socialist countries throughout the Belgrade forum, and their constructive approach to the problems under discussion. The fact that all 10 principles of mutual relations between states which figure in the final act are reflected in the new Soviet Constitution made a deep impression on the participants.

The Soviet proposals to supplement political with military detente, to lessen the military confrontation in Europe and the danger of a nuclear war, and to cooperation in the fields of environment protection, energy and transportation found a lively response here.

The United States and some of its NATO allies repeatedly attempted to steer the meeting onto the course of psychological war in order to avoid discussing the vitally important problems of European security. There were attempts to challenge the socialist countries in the field of human rights.

But what could be said on this score by those who are faced with problems--insoluble problems as far as capitalism is concerned--such as multimillions unemployed, by those who support racism and carry out mass persecution of fighters for civil rights?

Those who violate en masse the basic human rights in their own countries, we deprive of the moral right to teach others, said the Czechoslovak delegation's spokesman in his final speech.

Statements by the participants about the historic significance of the all-European conference, about the resolve of their governments to carry out to the fullest all provisions of the final act, signed on the summit level in Helsinki in 1975, rang forth at the Congress Center.

Thus, continuation of the detente process has been insured. [recording ends]

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD121607Y Moscow International Service in Russian 0730 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program presented by Anatoliy Ovsyannikov, Central Television and All-Union Radio political observer; with Leonid Maksimov, radio commentator; and Mikhail Mikhaylov, IZVESTIYA observer--recorded]

[Text] [Ovsyannikov] Good day, comrades. Last week in our country a great deal of time was devoted to foreign policy matters. In Moscow Leonid Ilich Brezhnev received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Comm ttee. During the conversation which took place there was confirmation of an identity of views on a wide range of issues concerning the present situation in the Near East. The principled course of the CPSU and the Soviet state, aimed at achieving peace in this area, was also confirmed in talks with a visitor from Morocco, Ahmed Osman, the Moroccan prime minister. It was said that the shortest path to a solution of the Near East problem is the path of negotiations within the framework of the mechanism already set up--the Geneva conference. There is no other alternative.

The Soviet side stressed that the achievement of genuine peace, both in the Near East and in other areas, requires a cessation of the arms race. Now, on the eve of the coming special UN General Assembly session on questions of disarmament, the Soviet Union again declares its adherence to the idea of disarmament and its striving to create the broadest possible front of peace-loving forces advocating the realization of this historic task.

Neutron Bomb Opposition

[Mikhaylov] The most pressing and alarming issue for the world public is the issue of the creation of the neutron bomb and its deployment on the European Continent. Now, indeed, it has become obvious that Western politicans, especially the military cliques, have been quietly intending, in their own narrow circle, to reach agreement on the production on the other side of the ocean and the deployment in Western Europe of the new barbaric weapon. They have been endeavoring to rush through this operation without informing the people or even the bourgeois parliaments. They wanted to pass off this "monster," as the neutron bomb has been called by London's TIMES, as one of the normal supplements to NATO arsenals. In this regard the word "bomb" has been removed altogether from their vocabulary and instead there has been patter about some "nuclear charge of enhanced radioactivity." But they did not manage to conceal this inhuman scheme from mankind.

The Soviet Union has spoken out timely and authoritatively against the neutron bomb. Our country has proposed to the West that agreement be reached on mutual renunciation of the production of this new weapons system of mass annihilation--"on mutual renunciation"--for otherwise, since there is no attempt to conceal that the neutron weapons will be aimed at the USSR and its allies, countermeasures will have to be taken in the interests of insuring the general security of the socialist community.

The movement against this weapon of death has become unparalleled in scope. Here are just a few facts relating to the end of February and the beginning of March. An international conference for the prohibition of neutron weapons was held in Geneva. Later, also in Geneva, there was a disarmament conference attended by 140 nongovernmental organizations with consultative status at the United Nations. Parliamentarians from Europe, the United States, Latin America and Asia met in Helsinki on the initiative of the World Peace Council.

An appeal adopted by parliamentary deputies from Finland, Canada, the United States, Spain, Sweden, Mexico, India, the Soviet Union and other socialist states says: Production of the neutron bomb will be a violation of the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear arms and will mean a quantitatively new upturn in the arms race. The intention of the U.S. administration to begin production of the neutron bomb and deploy it in the continent of Europe poses a threat to the process of detente.

[Maksimov] Not a single day passes in the countries of Western Europe and the United States itself without meetings and demonstrations, whose participants demand that production of the neutron bomb and its deployment with NATO armed forces on the continent of Europe be renounced. This is accompanied by a whole series of governmental rows.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, Leonid Maksimovich, you obviously have in mind the loud row which broke out in Holland, where Kruisinga, the defense minister, resigned after other ministers disowned his statement in the Second Chamber that Holland would do everything it could to prevent the arming of NATO with neutron bombs. But it is interesting to note the way these other ministers presently feel. In its resolution the States General has shown solidarity not with them but with their former defense minister.

Holland is not an exception. Small NATO countries such as Denmark, Norway and Iceland have let it be understood that they do not want to have neutron bombs on their soil. As for the other Western European NATO countries, the press reports that, while military circles are ready to accept neutron arms, the politicians are deciding not to be so brutally frank. They would like to lessen their responsibility for the fateful decision, and await a signal from the American President. Western European politicians refer to the fact that the production of the neutron bomb is the business of the American military monopolies and are saying: Let their representatives in the U.S. Government show the initiative. However, one should not exaggerate the importance of these maneuvers. British Prime Minister Callaghan has already, to all intents and purposes, spoken out as an advocate of the neutron bomb by his negative reply to the demand of a Labor MP that the head of the British Government declare that this frightful bomb be outlawed and condemned by both the Western and the Eastern blocs. One must say that the leaders of the ruling coalition in the FRG are behaving in an indeterminate and, I would say, even ambiguous way.

[Ovsyannikov] Here I should like to quote something from the British FINANCIAL TIMES. This newspaper claims that the White House will make a decision on the production of neutron arms before the Washington meeting of the state and government leaders of the NATO countries, on 31 May.

[Mikhaylov] Anatoliy Ivanovich, you say that the FINANCIAL TIMES claims--but perhaps it is not only claiming, perhaps it is also prompting such a decision by the American President. This cannot be excluded, when considering the statement made by the British prime minister.

[Ovsyannikov] That is quite possible.

[Mikhaylov] In these conditions the proposal submitted during the past week for the consideration of the Geneva UN disarmament committee by eight socialist countries--the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia--becomes especially topical. At the Palais des Nations talks, they proposed a draft convention on the banning of nuclear neutron arms. The draft provides that all the states participating in the convention undertake not to produce, stockpile, deploy or use such weapons.

Belgrade Meeting Ends

[Ovsyannikov] Mikhail Aleksandrovich, you have been speaking about the importance of the problems of disarmament and a cessation of the arms race. These questions were also discussed at the Belgrade meeting. This week the work of the meeting came to an end. What have been its main results? I should like to ask you, Leonid Masimovich, to talk about this.

[Maksimov] Well, first of all I should like to say, now that the Belgrade meeting is over, what its tasks were. The tasks of the Belgrade meeting of the countries which participated in the all-European conference were set out quite succinctly in the final act itself, which was signed in Helsinki on 1 August 1975 by the heads of 35 European countries, the United States and Canada. Stating their determination to continue the multilateral process begun by the Helsinki conference, the participating states agreed to hold meetings at the level of representatives appointed by foreign ministers. In this regard it was noted that the first meeting would take place in Belgrade in 1977. Thus it is a question of the meetings of foreign ministers' representatives being, as Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko once put it very figuratively, station stops on the long road to be traveled by the train of detente. All the states proceeded from the fact that the basis for the further expansion and deepening of the process of relaxing international tension had been created in the final act itself, and let us say at once that on this level there could be no talk of a revision of the provisions of the final act, which was attempted at the Belgrade meeting by some Western representatives.

Here I should like to note the most important point in this whole problem of European security and cooperation. The West sometimes attempts to give the impression that it has somehow forgotten the main aim. You know, the main point is that after 30 years of intense searches and numerous meetings and talks between the states of Europe, the United States and Canada, 35 states at last agreed on how to promote peace in Europe, security and cooperation, a rapprochement between peoples and an improvement and the activation of their relations.

They agreed to expand and deepen the process of detente, to make it continuous and firm, to make it an uninterrupted, viable and all-round process, universal in scope, and to work toward the development of better and closer relations between people. And thus, as it says in the final act itself, to strive to overcome the opposition stemming from the nature of their past relations. The Belgrade meeting should, in fact, have promoted this main process, the process of strengthening trust and cooperation between people.

The Soviet delegation, led by Yuliy Mikhaylovich Vorontsov, set precisely this task for itself. We must note and especially stress what Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said about the Soviet Union's intentions at the Belgrade meeting. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: We would like this meeting to be what it was intended to be, a continuation and development of the spirit of Helsinki, and yet another link in the development of the process of detente. Can this be attained? It can be, if we prepare for it and carry it out as an act of cooperation and not of dissension. Anyone trying to orient it in a different direction would be taking on a great responsibility.

The Soviet delegation believed it should try to implement these aims, and therefore it immediately put forward a whole range of important proposals.

To be precise, proposals for a platform for action on the consolidation of military detente, for the expansion of European cooperation in fields of environmental conservation, transportation and energy and a number of other proposals.

[Ovsyannikov] Leonid Maksimovich, we probably ought to say that a number of proposals were put forward jointly by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Thus, for example, the Polish People's Republic put forward four important proposals.

[Maksimov] Yes, quite right. These proposals were put forward by individual delegations from the socialist countries, and they were put forward by several socialist countries jointly. I must say that the socialist countries' basic position consisted in insuring the success of the main concern in the process of detente: the participating countries' confirmation of their adherence to the process of relaxation of tension, and their confirmation of their fidelity to the Helsinki accords. This was precisely why the Soviet delegation, as well as the other socialist countries' delegations, made truly enormous efforts not to allow the work of the Belgrade meeting to be diverted from this main task onto questions, which, in essence, sometimes had nothing in common with the tasks and aims of the Belgrade meeting.

Therefore, we note that the main positive result of the Belgrade meeting was the confirmation of adherence to the basic accords of the final act. This is noted in the concluding act itself in which the states taking part plainly wrote that the representatives of the participating states stressed the significance of the detente which has continued since the adoption of the final act.

[Ovsyannikov] It must be said, however, that the United States delegation took quite a different position at the Belgrade meeting.

[Maksimov] Yes, unfortunately we have to note this, and to note not only attempts at an unconstructive approach, but also attempts to encroach on the very basis, on the most important achievement of the European conference in Helsinki. We can see from the work of the Belgrade meeting, and incidentally from the statements by the American and West European press and radio themselves, that the main efforts of the delegations of the United States and certain other Western countries were aimed at achieving, at any price, sanction for the policy of interference in the internal affairs of the socialist countries by a number of Western countries, on the basis of international law; that is, to achieve the inclusion in the meeting's concluding document of a clause which would mean that the Western states had the right to monitor the implementation of human rights in the socialist countries, and specifically, that the socialist countries must allow anti-social activity by individual renegades and groups of renegades on the false pretext that such activity is allegedly envisaged by the concluding document.

[Mikhaylov] Leonid Maksimovich, real confusion has resulted here in the speeches by the Western representatives. It is one thing to engage in demagogy at home, but another thing when they make these demagogic claims at an international meeting which has clearly outlined tasks. These proved to be (?futile) attempts.

[Maksimov] It is quite right that at the Belgrade meeting the profuse talk by, for example, Arthur Goldberg, the head of the American delegation, concerning the attempt by the American delegation and certain other delegations to act as the defender of human rights in the socialist countries was called a propaganda maneuver by the USSR representative, bearing in mind the negative, demagogic and subversive nature of these maneuvers.

[Ovsyannikov] The maneuvers are still continuing, since, so to speak....

[Maksimov] Quite naturally, this is shown by the equally demagogic speeches, by the delegations, particularly the U.S. delegation, at the meeting of the human rights committee in Geneva. Confirmation of the deep intentions of certain, I would say, shortsighted figures in the West on questions of the creation of possibilities for their blatant interference in the socialist countries' internal affairs is found in a whole range of new proposals put forward one after the other in various government and legislative departments in the United States, which talk of the creation of some sort of government institution to monitor the implementation of human rights in other countries.

Quite recently the Washington POST reported that at one meeting Zbigniew Brzezinski, who has not abandoned his position as main strategist of the U.S. propaganda campaign talked about the new policy of the United States.

He stressed the fact that human rights should replace anticommunism as the basis upon which our foreign policy is founded. This statement describes extremely distinctly the intentions of the U.S. administration, and this casts a certain light on why the American delegation at the Belgrade meeting strove so stubbornly for the inclusion of completely groundless points in the concluding document of that meeting.

International Disarmament

[Mikhaylov] Leonid Maksimovich, it seems to me that it is no coincidence that alongside this demagogy over questions not within the competence of the Belgrade meeting, the Western delegations, and above all the American delegation, shunned discussion of questions concerning new measures of military detente and disarmament. This is reflected in the conduct of the leaders of a number of Western countries outside the Belgrade meeting, at other forums, and in their everyday activity. I have already mentioned here the forthcoming NATO summit meeting. This meeting is due to coincide with the work of the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament. At the meetings of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly, the new proposals on questions of disarmament put forward by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, have received high appraisal from the representatives of many states. At the meetings of the committee profound concern was expressed over the increased activity in a number of capitalist states by the opponents of detente and their aspiration to step up the arms race even more strongly.

In the United States, for example, influential forces are playing a very clumsy and risky game over the new Soviet-American strategic arms limitation agreement. Yet the United States needs that agreement every bit as much as the Soviet Union. As one fairly sane American politician has said, the SALT agreement--that is what it is called, the strategic arms limitation agreement-- is not a kind of reward for good conduct by the Soviet Union. It is an instrument, that politician said, with which we, the United States, promote our own interests.

[Ovsyannikov] That is why the dividing line among the senators and congressmen is growing sharper. No matter what the resistance from those who oppose good relations with the Soviet Union, the supporters of Soviet-American cooperation are raising their voices increasingly loudly.

[Mikhaylov] Yes, there really are such people in Congress, and they are citing such figures as that SALT-2 will save the United States $20,000 million.

One really needs a complete disregard for U.S. interests to scorn the possibility of such a saving of nonproductive spending and of channelling it to meet the many needs of the American people. Yet the proposals which U.S. Defense Secretary Brown and General Haig, supreme commander in chief of the NATO armed forces in Europe made to Congress were not for cuts in military spending: On the contrary, they wanted the record military budget of $128 billion passed. But that wasn't enough: They were urging even greater military spending on new arms and weapons systems.

[Ovsyannikov] As the saying goes, a bad example is catching. In Japan, for instance, despite the completely clear-cut provisions of the postwar constitution, certain circles are putting up trial balloons in an attempt to circumvent those provisions by claiming that they do not extend to tactical nuclear weapons.

[Mikhaylov] What conclusion should be drawn from the facts we have been discussing? The merchants of death--who have already gone very far--are still playing with fire. This calls for vigilance and a decisive rebuff from all who hold dear the cause of detente, of preventing a new war, of lasting peace. The problem of disarmament is indeed the supreme issue in international life.

[Maksimov] In this context, I would also like to emphasize that there is an identity in the positions of those who agitate for the observation of human rights in the socialist countries, as they call it, and those who agitate for what I would call the very deepest hopes of the military industry complex--those in the West who agitate for more and more arms.

French Elections

[Ovsyannikov] We would also like to dwell on our broadcast, comrades, on the important international event, the French elections. As you know, the first round of the elections is today, and the second next Sunday. We shall not repeat the forecasts now being made in France: We shall merely say that very many observers are saying that the left has a chance for victory in the elections. Some spokesmen for the ruling circles claim that the left will win today, but on 19 March the pendulum of public opinion may swing back. For example, that was said a few days ago by Raymond Barre, the French prime minister. Well, that is one set of forecasts. As for the left's spokesmen, they say they are confident of victory.

Let us recall the reason that these elections are so important, and the socioeconomic situation in which they are taking place. Four hundred and ninety one deputies are to be elected to the National Assembly. The electorate is 36 million strong. Since 1958, France has had a two-round majority electoral system--in translation, "majorite" means majority. In order to be elected in the first round, the candidate must obtain an absolute majority of the votes--50 percent plus one--and also not less than one quarter of the total electoral votes. In the second round, the candidate who has obtained a relative majority of votes is the winner. In the outgoing National Assembly, the predominance was held by a bloc of parties styled the Union of Democrats for the Republic: President Valery Giscard d'Estaing worked for a long time to get it formed. The Gaullists--the Rally for the Republic--joined it, but are now threatening to break away. Therefore, in this camp there is a split. Unfortunately, there is no united front on the left, either: Polemics are underway between the French Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the left radicals on many fundamental issues, including the nationalization of industry, price control and so on. Just before the elections, the most acute issues between the Communists and the Socialists were those of the renewal of their joint government program.

It should be emphasized that a certain balance has now been formed between the ruling majority and the parties of the left. Each side might gain a slight advantage. But why have the leftwing forces made so much progress, especially since the municipal elections which were held a year ago? One major reason is that the bourgeois parties have proved powerless to overcome the crisis in the country. In France, the elections are at a time when the situation is deteriorating: Prices are rising, inflation is growing, and there is an enormous deficit in trade and payments balances. According to trade union figures, the number of unemployed is more than 1.5 million, of whom 44.6 percent are young people under the age of 25. Undoubtedly, all this is intensifying the polarization of forces. Observers point out that under these conditions, the ruling circles are maneuvering in a bid to prevent the Communists from taking part in the government. Here they are also helped by the United States, which is interfering in France's internal affairs.

Italian Governmental Crisis

[Mikhaylov] Well, in that regard France is no exception. Just recently, after all, we had the crude interference in the internal affairs of Italy. As you know, that country has had a government crisis for quite some time. Today that crisis is drawing to a close, but it was very complex, largely because of external interference. I remind you that the Christian Democrat minority cabinet, which existed before the government crisis, was forced to foot the bill for its inability to govern without the support of the other political parties, including the Communists. That is how the government crisis arose. But what was not undertaken to prevent the natural upshot?--the formation of a coalition government in which the Communists--who are supported by over one-third of the entire Italian electorate--would of course take part. In no case must Italy have such a government, said the White House in Washington and the NATO leadership almost hysterically. But what the Communist Party and the other leftwing forces placed at the heart of the government problem was not the composition of the ministerial cabinet but the government's program. Then neither the Christian Democrats nor their foreign guardians could ignore the political realities any longer. The prime minister-designate in the new government--the Christian Democrat Andreotti who also headed the old one--could not form a government without top-level consultations with delegations from the country's leading parties. According to the latest reports, those consultations have ended in success. Agreement has been reached on the main points in the future government's program, and thus the way has been opened for an end to the government crisis. Consequently, the main point has been confirmed: The distribution of political forces in Italy is such that the Christian Democrats, who have governed the country throughout the postwar period, can no longer ignore the views of the Communists and the other parties of the left, or act against them. Regardless of the personal makeup of the cabinet, a parliamentary majority can only be secured by considering those winds of change which are blowing stronger and stronger in Italy.

[Ovsyannikov] And on that, respected comrades, we end our roundtable discussion for today. Thank you for listening, and all the best.

TASS STATEMENT ON USSR DESIRE FOR TALKS ON NEUTRON BOMB

LD111230Y Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

["Statement by TASS"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 11, TASS--It is for many months now that the world public has been showing deep-felt concern over the plans made by the United States to manufacture the so-called neutron bomb, a new type of weapon of mass annihilation.

It is clear to the peoples that realisation of these plans would mean the opening of a new direction in the arms race and increase the danger of outbreak of a nuclear war.

The Soviet Union is strongly against such a prospect. Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, made a clear-cut and concrete proposal for reaching agreement on mutual refusal to manufacture neutron weapons. This proposal was forwarded to the leadership of the USA, the governments of all states--NATO members, and other West European countries.

The Soviet position, which was prompted by deep concern for the strengthening of peace, has met with a broad response and support in many countries. European and other socialist countries came out actively in support of such a solution of the question. A number of statesmen in Western Europe soberly assess the dangerous consequences of production of the neutron weapon. What is more, they cannot fully ignore the negative reactions from their own peoples to the intentions to deploy neutron weapons in the territories of their countries.

But the United States and certain circles in other NATO countries show no willingness to give up their plans. On the contrary, the reports coming in lately indicate that they intend to force through a decision on the question of neutron weapons. In doing so they seek to mislead public opinion and resort to such a manoeuvre: While announcing the beginning of the manufacture of neutron weapons in the USA to promise to postpone for some time its deployment in Western Europe and simultaneously to put forward a proposal--which they know is unacceptable to the Soviet Union--for tying in a final decision on this question with other questions which have no relation to it.

Subterfuges of this kind are calculated for naive people, but cannot deceive world public. Their aim is to try to bring down the protests of peoples and, which is the main thing, to avoid the only possible sane solution consisting in mutual renunciation of production of the neutron weapon.

If the NATO member countries make their choice in favour of starting the production of the neutron weapon, such a decision would face the Soviet Union with the necessity to give an appropriate answer to such a challenge, as is demanded by the interests of ensuring the security of the Soviet people and its allies. The USSR would not like, however, to embark on this path. There is an alternative to a new spiral in the nuclear arms race.

TASS is authorised to state that the Soviet Union again reaffirms its proposal and calls upon the United States for a mutual renunciation of the production of the neutron weapon. The Soviet Government is ready to start holding talks on this issue any time and conclude a relevant international agreement.

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON RESULTS OF TITO-CARTER TALKS

LD101330Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0955 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, 10 March--The official visit to the U.S. capital by SFRY President Josip Broz Tito has ended. He had talks with President James Carter.

It is pointed out in a joint statement that the sides discussed matters pertaining to relations between the United States and Yugoslavia as well as important international problems. Special attention was given to supporting peace and security throughout the world and the development of international cooperation. The sides asserted the need to carry out more extensively the policy of relaxing tension in all regions of the earth and in all spheres of international relations. The results of the Belgrade meeting were discussed. According to the statement, they have substantially strengthened the foundation for continuing multilateral efforts in the interests of securing more reliable security and broad cooperation in Europe.

The importance of the talks on limiting strategic offensive arms and the talks on the mutual reductions of armed forces and arms in central Europe and other efforts in this sphere is stressed in the statement. The great importance of the forthcoming special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament is also noted.

ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS CARTER, VANCE, BROWN

LD111418Y Moscow TASS in English 1159 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

["Aggressor Demanding New Weapons"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 11, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevegniy Yegorov reports: Israeli Defence Minister Weizman wound up his negotiations in the U.S. capital, which were a "reconnaissance", as it were, before the visit of Israeli Prime Minister Begin, who is due to arrive here early next week.

Weizman met in Washington yesterday with U.S. President J. Carter. As is noted in the communique of the White House, the President assured the Tel Aviv emissary that the U.S. commitments to Israel are the main aspect of U.S. policy in the Middle East and will remain so in the future. The President stressed that he had approved military aid to Israel to the tune of 1,000 million dollars, a half of which is in a free loan, as well as 785 million dollars in "aid on ensuring security". Carter also noted that he had recently approved the sale of new military aircraft to Israel worth 1,800 million dollars as part of the programme of deliveries of war planes to three countries in the Middle East.

Under this programme, Israel is to receive fifteen F-15 and seventy-five F-16 aircraft. But even this seems little to Tel Aviv. Weizman told newsmen that Israel is seeking the supply of another 175 war planes. During his meetings with Defence Secretary Harold Brown and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Weizman discussed the question of the supply of Israel in the next few years with miscellaneous weapons worth 13,500 million dollars. Apart from war planes, Israel is seeking the supply of tanks and self-propelled artillery, electronic equipment, hovercraft, etc.

Judging by statements by Vance and Brown, these demands met with understanding from the U.S. side. We will carefully examine Israel's request, U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown told a press conference yesterday.

U.S. SALT OPPONENTS 'DISTORT' SOVIET AFRICAN POLICY

LD121014Y Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Some political parties in the United States in recent time have been making statements that are clearly designed to obstruct the successful conclusion of the SALT-II talks with the Soviet Union. Our observer Vladimir Bolshakov comments:

I think there is a system to this madness. This time again as on so many occasions in the past, the closer we get to a new agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States the tougher the opposition from the enemies of all Soviet-American relations in general. This is just what we are having now when the two sides have finally achieved significant progress on SALT-II, and all that remains is to sort out the snags as soon as possible.

This success has triggered off fresh attacks from the enemies of international relaxation and disarmament in the United States. These hostile attacks on the SALT-II talks are linked with the current developments in the Horn of Africa. It's really difficult to see any connection between attempts to limit Soviet-American strategic arms and the problem of the Somali aggression against its Ethiopian neighbor. In the second part of this riddle, we feel that it is the duty of every nation to try and assist the victim of an aggression in foiling the attack and in dealing with its aftermath. This is the stand taken by the Soviet Union and also by Cuba and other members of the socialist community. These countries feel that they are doing their duty in helping the people of Ethiopia to defend their sovereignty and territorial integrity. But certain quarters in Washington are deliberately trying to distort the Soviet policy in the Horn of Africa. There's every reason to believe that they do so in order to invent a pretext for obstructing the SALT-II talks.

The Senate minority leader, Howard Baker, went as far as to demand a suspension of the SALT-II talks on the grounds that the Soviet Union is giving aid to Ethiopia. It is really surprising to see how shortsighted, not to say irresponsible, some people can get who really should know better. These policymakers seem to forget that the proposed Soviet-American agreement on limiting strategic arms involves the key problem of our time, the problem of preventing nuclear war and saving mankind from a disaster. They seem to forget that a SALT-II agreement is just as important for the United States as it is for the Soviet Union. Those American political leaders who invent all kinds of pretexts in order to obstruct the Soviet-American talks are certainly acting against the best interests of their own nations. All they really want is to promote the interests of the military and industrial complex and this attitude is fraught with great dangers for world peace and security.

To have or not to have SALT-II means to have or not to have another and even more dangerous spiral of the arms race. American leaders in the United States who are busy trying to torpedo the SALT-II under various pretexts are really assuming a grave responsibility.

'STUPID SENSATIONS' MARK U.S. CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT USSR

LD1123402 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1908 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Opponents of Soviet-U.S. detente have become noticeably more active in the United States. Their efforts are now chiefly aimed at hindering the successful conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. Our Washington correspondent Yuriy Soltan reports.

The U.S. media, conservative politicians and all kinds of "research institutes" financed by military corporations, bombard Americans every day with one stupid sensation after another, slander the policy of the Soviet Union with fantasies and distort the Soviet position on questions of disarmament. The campaign to frighten Americans with myths about the growing Soviet military threat is continuing. The issue of deploying neutron weapons in Western Europe in order to blackmail the Soviet Union at talks is continuously discussed. The Washington administration takes a duplicitous attitude. High-ranking figures in the White House never tire of discussing the importance and necessity of a new disarmament agreement with Soviet Union. But how can their statements be compared with the negative attitude which the U.S. delegation has toward a number of very important questions at the disarmament talks? How can one explain the report that the White House does not want to increase the progress of the talks because of its preoccupation with other urgent problems? But it is the problem of disarmament which, for the United States too, is the most urgent problem. The importance of concluding a new Soviet-U.S. agreement in this sphere is not only that it would promote Soviet-U.S. relations; the main thing is that it would reduce the threat of a thermonuclear war and help to create an atmosphere of trust for the solution of other international questions.

Such an opinion is shared by those statesmen in the United States who are on the side of reason. Here is what Congressman Michael Harrington said in an interview with your correspondent. [Begin recording] in English fading into Russian translation] In the disarmament talks, I would like to see more diligence and striving [words indistinct]. We do not need a formal [word indistinct] agreement, but an agreement aimed at a true limitation and reduction of the production of nuclear missile weapons. Such an agreement would be welcomed by Americans, and not only Americans, but by other peoples too, with enthusiasm. [end recording]

WASHINGTON IGNORES COMMITMENTS ON SALT, MIDEAST, HELSINKI

LD1210447 Moscow in English to North America 2230 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Valentin Zorin commentary]

[Text] During my recent visit to America I looked up a friend living in the suburbs of Washington, an American journalist whom I've known for years. When I arrived he was talking with a car dealer about buying a new car. I'm sure that when they parted with all points settled each one was certain the other would keep his end of the bargain. Later I asked my friend how he'd react if the other party failed to keep its word, say it changed the terms of the deal to suit himself. He said he'd have no more dealings with it. It seems to me the same rule applies in relations between governments.

The present administration began its career in the White House by going back on the understanding reached at Vladivostok regarding a strategic arms limitation agreement. It took time and effort before the American side began to show a more balanced approach and returned to the principles agreed at Vladivostok. There have been other times, too, when Washington officials have gone back on pledges. Last October the Soviet Union and the United States issued a joint statement of resolve to act together within the framework of the international machinery set up to adjust the Middle East problem. This machinery is the Geneva conference. The Soviet Union and the United States are its co-chairmen. But soon after Washington began to act as though there'd never been this joint declaration. The excuse was the new situation arising from President as-Sadat's initiative. But isn't the administration in Washington obliged to honor international agreements that carry its signature? Or does Cairo determine its policies? Perhaps some officials in Washington prefer to have the tail wag the dog, but there's no reason for Moscow to agree to this.

As a television commentator I get many questions from Soviet people and some have asked about these zigzags in Washington policy. Some ask how it is that both media and officials in the United States interfere in the affairs of the Soviet Union on the pretext of championing human rights, though the United States signed the Helsinki accords, and one of the pledges the nations took at Helsinki was to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs.

Protection of human rights is a primary duty of all governments. No one denies this. (?And) as the Soviet people see it, the American Government does not give enough attention to this at home in the United States. Let me mention just a few violations: the case of the Wilmington 10 in North Carolina; the unjustified sentence passed on the black poet and fighter for civil rights Assata Chacourt; and the fact that millions of Americans are deprived of that basic human right, the right to work. Soviet media and officials criticise these violations, but they never overstep the bounds and interfere in the internal affairs of the United States. You will never hear a member of the Soviet parliament demand that America meet certain demands before the Soviet Union will have dealings with it. No Soviet official makes relations with the United States dependent on a decision taken in an American court. The Soviet Union adheres too strictly to international law and the Helsinki agreements.

I've mentioned three instances when the Washington administration has gone back on commitments. All three have an important bearing on relations with the Soviet Union and on the world situation in general. It's a cornerstone of international law dating back to ancient Rome that agreements must be honored. If this rule is ignored there can be no relations between governments. Indeed, whenever a nation breaks an agreement the world community shows concern, yet lately the administration in Washington has made a practice of going back on its commitments. Is this from inexperience or does it mean something else?

CARTER STATEMENTS ON U.S.-USSR RELATIONS 'EVOKE SURPRISE'

LD1019Z8Y Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 10, TASS--In an interview to the Yugoslav magazine NIN, President James Carter of the United States said that in his opinion there is no "crisis of trust" in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. The United States, he said, would like to expand the existing fields of potential cooperation, achieve further progress at the talks with the Soviet Union on questions of disarmament. The President noted the big importance of the talks on the limitation of strategic offensive arms.

Touching on the results of the Belgrade meeting, James Carter said that in the opinion of the United States the meeting had achieved substantial success. The President contended however that the Soviet Union allegedly was not prepared for a serious participation in the study of new proposals.

Such an interpretation cannot but evoke surprise. It was the Soviet Union, as is known, that made concrete proposals on the development of cooperation and strengthening of trust. The Soviet Union came to the Belgrade meeting with a detailed programme of practical proposals addressed to the future: on questions of military detente in Europe, on the expansion of European cooperation in the field of environmental protection, transport, energy etc. This indeed would be a practical implementation of the provisions of the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. But, unfortunately, the NATO countries, and first of all th' United States, did not take to this concrete road and tried to use the Belgrade meeting for propaganda purposes, in order to cover up their attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other states, including the socialist countries.

PRESIDENT SIGNS BILL CURBING SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

LD111728Y Moscow TASS in English 1707 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

["Strict Guarantees Required"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, March 11, TASS--U.S. President James Carter has signed into law a bill on stronger control over exports of nuclear materials and technology which envisages some measures of preventing a further spread of nuclear weapons. Speaking at the bill-signing ceremony, James Carter said that prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons was the primary necessity and stressed that adoption of the new law became an important step towards this goal.

The law, earlier approved by the Congress, defines direct terms of export of nuclear materials and technology from the United States, specifies additional terms of export of nuclear materials and technology, which will be contained in new agreements on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. But the President retains the right to exceptions to these "new rules".

The USSR's stand towards problems of nuclear non-proliferation is known to have been clearly set out in the Soviet Union's memorandum on questions of ending the arms race and of disarmament, submitted for consideration of the 31st session of the U.N. General Assembly. As was noted in that document, strict guarantees are necessary to prevent international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy from becoming a channel of proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union, the document stresses, advocates all-round perfection of the system of control over nuclear units and materials which is exercised by the International Atomic Energy Agency. For the purpose the Soviet Union is ready to cooperate with all interested states.

MOTIVES BEHIND U.S. STRATEGY IN AFRICA EXAMINED

LD091412Y Moscow TASS in English 1136 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 9, TASS--"Africa holds pride of place in the [words indistinct] imperialist powers. Their concrete goals are to [words indistinct] of exploiting its natural and manpower resources, to keep it in the orbit of world capitalism, to prevent it from embarking upon the road of revolutionary development", says the Soviet magazine INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS [MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN].

"They regard this continent as an important reserve in the struggle to perpetuate the capitalist system, and do not stint efforts to persuade the leaders of the African states, comprising one third of the United Nations membership, to back the Western foreign policy. An important role in the neocolonialist offensive on the newly (?independent) states of Africa is assigned to massive economic expansion."

"An important role in the elaboration and implementation of neocolonialism's strategy in Africa belongs today to U.S. monopoly capital. Its representatives are (?arguing) constantly that expansion of investments in the developing countries is one of the main tasks of the United States." "The total sum of American private investments in the African Continent grew steadily in the post-colonial period", the INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS continues. Thus, between 1957 and 1975 the direct investments in Africa (without the Republic of South Africa) grew from 370 to 2,937 million dollars, that is more than six times over. "Seizure of key positions in the economy, primarily, the establishment of control over the sources of valuable raw materials and fuel, maximum profits--these are the driving motives of foreign, including American, private capital in Africa."

"At the end of 1975 the U.S. share in the total direct investments in the oil-producing countries of Africa amounted to 54.5 per cent, in the mining industry--20.3 per cent, in the processing industry--9.6 per cent, in trade and other sectors of economy--15.5 per cent. It is precisely the extractive industry that yields it maximum profits due to exceptionally cheap manpower and rich deposits, supplies the U.S. market with strategic raw materials--oil, iron ore, manganese, bauxites, rare non-ferrous metals, gold, and diamonds. The African countries deliver to the United States 72 per cent of the cobalt, 51 percent of the manganese, 43 per cent of the antimony, 14 per cent of the copper it needs. Furthermore, Africa provides for almost 100 per cent of the diamonds, columbite and palm-oil imported by the United States, more than fifty percent of the cocoa, redwood, long-staple cotton, muca gold, rubber, graphite and oil. U.S. monopolies are steadily increasing the extraction of uranium in the continent.

Selective Economic Assistance

LD091936Y Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 9 TASS--"American 'aid' to African countries is entirely subordinated to neocolonialism's central task--the development of capitalism in Africa and other areas of the Third World", writes the Soviet magazine INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. "This was emphasized once again by the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance when explaining the policy of President Carter's administration. He said that encouragement of development towards a liberal world order based on an open economic system remains the immutable principle of aid".

"Aid as a new form of expansion in emergent states was first utilized by American imperialism", the magazine notes. "The United States is making vigorous use in its interests of the weak economic potential of most African states--a result of lengthy colonial exploitation". "Washington provides its assistance on a purely selective basis. Nearly the whole of it is directed to several 'key' countries which the United States, on weighing economic, political and military factors, selected as objects for the creation of 'showcases of capitalism'".

"The emergent countries in Africa now experience a big shortage of skilled specialists", the magazine continues.

"Capitalising on this, the United States sends to Africa thousands of its people, paying for their services from aid funds. While serving as 'consultants', they play the role of important springs of imperialist expansion. With the assistance of its experts the United States not so much helps in the drawing up of development programs for African countries as exerts influence on their overall socio-economic and cultural policy."

"The serious socio-economic changes witnessed by political life in Africa in the 1970's prompted Washington lately to considerably expand its ideological activities in the continent. By means of ideological subversion U.S. imperialism tries to 'loosen up' social consciousness in Africa countries, to demoralise the peoples, to narrow the social base of the advanced forces of the national-liberation movement and lessen its resistance to imperialism."

S. Africa, Rhodesia Role

LD1014547 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--"The question of the attitude to the racist regimes of the Republic of South Africa and Rhodesia occupies a particular place in the United States' foreign policy strategy in Africa", writes the journal INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. This is clear. The Republic of South Africa, along with Rhodesia, are an important sphere of activities of transnational companies, above all dominated by American capital. The Republic of South Africa is not at the bottom of NATO's plans in south Atlantic. The forces of imperialism regard the Republic of South Africa as a potential springboard for a counter-offensive on free Africa, primarily economic, and at a time of need--military, as was shown by the recent events in Angola and also in Mozambique.

One of the favourite themes of American propaganda is the so-called "new" policy of Washington in South Africa. It is presented as strongly hostile to the apartheid system in the Republic of South Africa, as "a new course" which has the aim to combat racist obscurantism in that part of the continent. Facts, however, show that despite critical rhetoric of officials from the Carter administration, leveled against the Vorster government, the United States is not exerting a serious pressure against the racists. It continues to trade with the Republic of South Africa".

"American press prints items containing facts on broad Washington-Pretoria economic links," the journal writes. About 350 American corporations the American newspaper DAILY WORLD recalls, have a total of approximately 2,000 million dollars of capital investments in South Africa. 14 giants of the U.S. monopoly world account for 75 percent of these capital investments".

"Through the U.S. Department of State says that the United States is not giving military aid to the Republic of South Africa, the Pentagon and American military monopolies find round-about ways to arm the racists--mainly through the sell of licences for the manufacture of American arms in other Western countries".

"Washington's diplomatic and political manoeuvres around South African problems which have the aim to preserve the regimes, hateful to peoples, shed light on the essence of the U.S. proclaimed "new" policy in Africa. Independent countries of the continent became convinced that despite high-flown official declarations, the aims of the U.S. ruling circles remain unchanged--to retard, cost what it may, progressive socio-economic and political processes in Africa in order to keep it as long as possible in the system of world capitalism as a dependent and exploited continent."

CHINA

PRAVDA NOTES INTENSIFICATION OF PRC ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA

LD090704Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Mikhail Georgiyev article: "Escalation of Lies"]

[Text] Never before has anti-Soviet propaganda in China been conducted on such a wide scale as now. During the first 2 months of this year, the newspaper PEOPLE'S DAILY alone published more than a hundred articles crudely distorting the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policy.

The struggle waged by the Soviet Union to ease tensions, for disarmament, and against the danger of war and development of new means of mass destruction meets with most hostile reaction from the Chinese leaders. "Rightwing newspapers' requirements for information aimed against tension [as published; presumably "the relaxation of" has been dropped] and the Soviet Union's peace policy are now satisfied with the aid of... the Chinese leadership," Finland's KANSAN UUTISET has written.

Chinese propaganda has recently been particularly zealous in its attempts to blacken the Soviet initiative directed at a just settlement of the Middle East problem, at supporting the just struggle of revolutionary Ethiopia and at condemning the racist regimes in South Africa. All the Soviet proposals on these problems which serve the interests of the people have met with a hostile attitude from Peking, which is slanderously describing them as "interference" in Africa's internal affairs and even...direct "acts of aggression".

Every day, PEOPLE'S DAILY carries numerous quotations of anti-Soviet character from various sources. In doing so, the Peking propaganda is not above sheer falsifications. Thus, for example, it has recently described a statement by a noted African leader, who condemned imperialist and racist policy, as one...directed against the Soviet Union. Thus, it has exposed itself by actually taking the side of the enemies of Africa. This is quite natural since the Peking leaders, blinded by anti-Sovietism, are clearly indifferent to the destinies of the African peoples. They are ready to use any pretext in order to, as PRC Deputy Foreign Minister He Ying said, "concentrate attention on the struggle against Soviet social-imperialism."

The intensification of propaganda against the Soviet Union is above all indicative that anti-Sovietism remains one of the basic means by which the Chinese leaders hope to resolve their extremely complex internal political problems and give a signal to the reactionary forces that in its hegemonic ambitions Peking is coming out as before against world socialism and against peace and progress.

PEKING'S OVERSEAS CHINESE POLICY SEEKS DISRUPTION

OW121406Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 10 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] In his report at the recently concluded NPC, Hua Kuo-feng, premier of the Chinese State Council, called on Overseas Chinese to abide by the laws of the country in which they reside and respect the customs and ways of its people. In this connection, our station observer Shalygin comments: There is no doubt about the sincerity of Overseas Chinese to obey local laws. Is Peking also sincere in this regard? We have sufficient grounds to doubt its sincerity concerning the conduct of Overseas Chinese.

The reason is that the Peking leadership's Overseas Chinese policy is a basic obstacle to the observance of local laws, customs and ways by Overseas Chinese. Recently, Peking has openly encouraged unprincipled elements among Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia to violate local laws, use violence and commit crimes. According to a statement issued by the Malaysian leadership, Peking incited a bloody clash between Overseas Chinese and Malaysians in May 1969 in Kuala Lumpur. The clash was not only an illegal act, but also caused many deaths and injuries. In the late 1960's, China instigated Overseas Chinese in Burma to undertake unlawful activities. Many Chinese special agents were arrested in that country. These agents, posing as rice purchasers for China, tried to form an organization to instigate Overseas Chinese to perform acts against the local government. The Peking leadership calls on Overseas Chinese to be loyal to Southeast Asian governments and urges them to abide by local laws. This is also Hua Kuo-feng's advice in his report to the NPC on dealing with Overseas Chinese. He said: "We would like Chinese nationals abroad to serve as a bridge to foster friendship between the Chinese people and the people of the countries concerned." However, facts have proved that these beautiful words are only aimed at covering up Peking's original policy of instigating Overseas Chinese to violate the laws of the country in which they reside.

Recently, more and more Chinese have illegally entered Indonesia. As a matter of fact, it is Peking that organizes the Chinese to illegally migrate to Indonesia and provides the funds required to do so. This matter has aroused the concern of the Indonesian Government from the viewpoint of national security because the illegal entrance of Chinese is a convenient way for China to dispatch its special agents into that country. Lately, the Peking leadership has called on Overseas Chinese to increase their investments in China's economic undertakings. Many Southeast Asian countries believe that the flow of their funds into China is an immoral or even a criminal act. Due to such a transfer of funds, the financially poor Southeast Asian countries have lost $180 million in foreign exchange annually.

Moreover, Peking instigates Overseas Chinese to perform even more serious illegal activities. It tries to have them join the armed anti-government and pro-China groups which have been rapidly developing in many Southeast Asian countries. As foreign sources have noted, in a group of this kind in Malaysia 90 percent of the members are Overseas Chinese and the group is led by a Chinese. In short, the present Peking leadership instigates Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asian countries to break laws, violate financial regulations, and embark on anti-government armed activities. This jeopardizes the position of Overseas Chinese in these countries and makes the local people and government personnel more skeptical and biased against them.

LI HSIEN-NIEN'S VISIT, SINO-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS NOTED

OW120046Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 0930 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Excerpts] According to reports by foreign news agencies, Li Hsien-nien, vice premier of China's State Council, will begin a visit to the Philippines on 12 March. In this connection, station observer Shelepin writes: Li Hsien-nien's visit confirms Peking's intensified diplomatic activities in Southeast Asia. Teng Hsiao-ping visited Burma recently, and Thai Prime Minister Kriangsak Chamanan has been invited to visit China.

What will be the results of such rapprochement for Southeast Asian countries? Will these developing relations be in their best interests? Will it be helpful in solving their complicated domestic problems?

In his talks in Manila, Li Hsien-nien will emphasize Sino-Philippine relations. This will enable us to [words indistinct] significant to the Southeast Asian countries.

Commenting on the decision by the Philippines to normalize relations with China, noted political observer (Walishiya) of Manila warned: It is essential to stop guerrilla activities at home. Since then, the continued fighting indicates that the grounds for promoting Sino-Philippine relations has not been substantiated. The hope that the Chinese leaders would stop supporting the Philippine guerrilla organization, the so-called New People's Army [NPA], has not been realized. Furthermore, this organization has obviously intensified its activities in some areas of the country. Units of the NPA have attacked (?villages), offices and roads, and published various Maoist propaganda materials. According to views of various political observers, such secret pro-China organizations in the Philippines could not continue their activities if they did not have China's military and material support. The U.S. paper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR points out: China has normalized diplomatic relations with the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia, but the problem of Peking's support of guerrilla organizations in these countries has not been solved.

Since the establishment of the Chinese Embassy in Manila, Peking has intensified its activities to woo Overseas Chinese in the Philippines. The FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW points out: The activities of the Chinese Embassy has created dissension in the Chinese Federation of the Philippines Chamber of Commerce, the most prestigious Overseas Chinese organization in that country. In order to place its stooges in leading positions in Overseas Chinese organizations, Peking has done its utmost to create dissension and sow discord among the Overseas Chinese. Some local authorities do not (?trust) Overseas Chinese.

Recently, China and the Philippines have intensified their territorial claims. Recently, when the Philippines occupied one of the islands of the Nansha Archipelago, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman reiterated Peking's claim of (?sovereignty) over certain islands in the South China Sea. Some islands of the archipelago are located close to the territories of the Philippines, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.

In addition, since last winter, the Sino-Philippine relations [words indistinct] obviously worsened. The Indian paper STATESMAN says: Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, Philippine and Chinese officials have been pessimistic about improving the [words indistinct]. In this regard, the situation is [words indistinct] now. At the recently concluded session of the National People's Congress, Chinese leaders called on the Southeast Asian countries to actively pursue the normalization of their relations with China. In his report, Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng deviously proclaimed: China is willing to resume or establish diplomatic relations with all the countries of Southeast Asia.

The reality of Sino-Philippine relations indicates that the normalization of relations with China will only further complicate the domestic problems of Southeast Asian countries.

TEXT OF CPSU CONDOLENCES TO SED ON LAMBERZ DEATH

LD091537Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Mar 78 p 1 LD

[Text] To the SED Central Committee:

The CPSU Central Committee sends deep condolences to the SED Central Committee in connection with the tragic death of Werner Lamberz, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and secretary of the SED Central Committee, and Paul Markowski, member of the SED Central Committee and chief of the SED Central Committee International Relations Section.

Soviet communists knew Werner Lamberz and Paul Markowski as active participants in building socialism in the GDR, ardent internationalists, and true friends of our country.

Sharing your grief at this terrible loss, we ask you to convey our sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of the deceased.

[Singned] The CPSU Central Committee.

PELSHE, RUSAKOV EXPRESS CONDOLENCES ON LAMBERZ DEATH

LD0912426Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Pelshe, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee; Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Rakhmanin, first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department; and Rodionov, deputy USSR foreign minister, today visited the GDR Embassy in the USSR in connection with the tragic death of Werner Lamberz, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee and Paul Markowski, member of the SED Central Committee and chief of the Central Committee International Relations Department.

They honored the memory of those active participants in the building of socialism in the GDR, ardent internationalists and true friends of our country with a minute's silence and signed their names in the condolences book.

Representatives of the Soviet Society of Friendship with the GDR visited the GDR Embassy on the same day and signed their names in the condolences book.

'ARAFAT VISIT MEETINGS IN BERLIN REPORTED

LD111236Y Moscow TASS in English 1133 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 11, TASS--General secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, chairman of the GDR State Council Erich Honecker received the delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat currently on an official visit here.

The meeting covered questions pertaining to a deepening of cooperation between the GDR and PLO in the joint anti-imperialist struggle.

Erich Honecker stressed that in the question of Middle East settlement of GDR declares for an all-round settlement of key issues with the participation of all sides concerned in the settlement of the conflict, including PLO, on an equal footing. The working people of the GDR, he said, are siding with the struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for the implementation of its national rights, including the right to the creation of its independent state.

Agreement Signed

LD112304Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 11, TASS--An agreement on mutual cooperation for 1978-1979 has been signed as a result of the negotiations held between the delegations of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization left Berlin today.

SED CC Hosts Reception

LD111731Y Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Berlin, March 11, TASS--The Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany has arranged a reception in honour of a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization now on an official visit here. It is led by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir 'Arafat.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the working class and all the working people of the GDR approve of and support the anti-imperialist struggle of the Palestine Liberation Organization for ensuring the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine. This has been stated at the reception by Gerhard Gruneberg, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. Most resolutely our party and our socialist state stand for elimination of all seats of tension in the world and for settlement of the most explosive conflict in the Middle East. We fully associate ourselves with the Arab peoples fighting against the aggressor. The Socialist Unity Party of Germany resolutely advocates political settlement of the key issues of that area of the world, stands for full withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the 1967 occupied Arab lands, for the exercise of the legitimate rights of the people of Palestine, including their right to have an independent state of their own.

Speaking in reply, Yasir 'Arafat highly appreciated the successes of the GDR's working people in the construction of a developed socialist society. Our visit to the Soviet Union and the GDR is of great significance, since our people and the Palestine Liberation Organization are an advanced post of anti-imperialist struggle of all progressive forces in the Middle East.

In the face of continuing imperialist attacks on the liberation movement in the Middle East, Yasir 'Arafat said, it is necessary to consolidate all anti-imperialist forces and to strengthen unity of action. He resolutely denounced the manoeuvres aimed at splitting the Palestine liberation movement and expressed the hope that with the help of friends and all progressive forces in the world the Palestinian people will emerge victorious.

TITO'S CBS INTERVIEW ON HORN OF AFRICA REPORTED

LD101614Y Moscow TASS in English 1554 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 10 TASS--In an interview to the American CBS radio and television company President Tito of Yugoslavia stressed the need of settling the conflict in the area of the Horn of Africa by way of peaceful talks. He said all Somalian troops must be withdrawn from the territory of Ethiopia.

Replying to a question by the correspondent, the president stated that one cannot speak about "the presence of Cuban troops" in Ethiopia because only advisers are there--Cuban and Soviet advisers. Ethiopia has a shortage of its own specialists, he explained.

The Yugoslav president mentioned the interference of Saudi Arabia and some other Arab countries in the conflict in the Horn of Africa on the side of Somalia.

The conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia, he said, has a much greater range than many think. What we have there is a definite strategy aimed at cutting Ethiopia off from the sea and excluding all Soviet presence in the area. Were the waterway between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean now closed, Josip Broz Tito stressed, this would have resulted in a broader international conflict, first of all between the Soviet Union and the United States. Definitely, the Soviet Union will not put up with a denial to it of freedom of navigation in the Red Sea which should be open to all without exception. Meantime, some Arab countries would want the Red Sea to be an exclusively Arab sea.

ROMANIAN PARTY-GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE DESCRIBED

LD101037Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Text] Bucharest, 8 March TASS--It has been announced here that the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] Central Committee has made a number of changes in the party leadership at a working session. Specifically, A. Duma and I. Stanescu have been released from their duties as RCP Central Committee secretaries in connection with their transfer to other work and C. Burtica and I. Verdet, members of the RCP Central Committee Party Executive Committee, have also been released. The RCP Central Committee has elected C. Dascalescu, secretary of the RCP Central Committee, as a member of the Central Committee Political Executive Committee; V. Cazacu as a member of the Political Executive Committee and Central Committee secretary; and M. Vasile as Central Committee secretary.

The RCP Central Committee recommended establishing the posts of first deputy prime ministers in the Romanian Government. By presidential decree, RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee members G. Oprea and I. Verdet, who simultaneously became chairman of the State Planning Committee, were appointed first deputy prime ministers.

A session of the RCP Central Committee Executive Committee was held in Bucharest and adopted a resolution to convene a party Central Committee plenum on 21 March this year.

BRIEFS

EQUIPMENT FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES--Romania has begun supplying powerful FA12 drilling installations to land improvement workers in Primorskiy Kray. Poland is supplying pumps, Bulgaria is supplying winches and loaders used in construction of new roads, Czechoslovakia is supplying sprinkling systems and the GDR is supplying caterpillar cargo hoisting cranes. Equipment and machinery supplies by the socialist countries will make it possible for land improvement workers in the far east to put nearly 500,000 hectares of reclaimed and irrigated land under cultivation during the current 5-year plan period. This land will be used for the growing of rice, soybeans, corn, vegetables and potatoes. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0935 GMT 7 Mar 78 OW]

PCI PARTICIPATION IN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT 'SIGNIFICANT'

LD102328Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Five political parties in Italy, including the Communist Party [PCI], have achieved agreement on a program for the country's future government, which Christian Democrat Andreotti will have responsibility for forming. Agreement on a program for the future government by parties holding absolute majorities in parliament hails a rapidly approaching end to the government crisis in Italy, which has been going on since mid-January. The main obstacle to the formation of the 40th postwar Italian government has been removed. The cabinet, which will be formed by Andreotti from representatives of the United Christian Democratic Party, the leading bourgeois party in the country, will for the first time in the past 30 years depend on a parliamentary majority, including the PCI.

By this the PCI has taken an important step forward on the path toward strengthening their position as an authoritative and responsible political force in the country representing the interests of the broad sections of the population. The PCI's shift from the opposition to the government majority is the most significant result of the present government crisis. It gives the Italian working class party a certain opportunity to strengthen its influence over government policy.

The communists prepared for this success by their many years of persistent, active and consistent struggle for the rights and interests of the working people and the protection of Italy's independence and sovereignty against the rebirth of facism.

After the parliamentary elections of 1976, when the PCI won over one-third of all votes, the bourgeois parties, and primarily the Christian Democratic Party, which has been ruling the country for the last 30 years, were forced to take it into account more and more. Now it grudgingly admits that it is impossible to rule the state effectively without the cooperation of the communists. In giving their consent to the PCI's inclusion in the governmental majority, Christian Democratic leaders displayed a minimum of realism necessary to liquidate the lingering governmental crisis. A wiser and more correct decision, as the PCI repeatedly stressed, would have been the formation of a government of national union from the representatives of all democratic parties, including the communists.

A decision like this however was unacceptable to the Christian Democrats. Strong opposition was exerted by the most conservative section of the party to the idea of admitting communists to positions of power, and there was also pressure from the U.S. Government and the NATO leadership, who virtually demanded that the Christian Democratic Party prevent participation by PCI representatives in the future government.

POSSIBILITY OF LEFT VICTORY IN FRENCH ELECTIONS VIEWED

LD112147Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1635 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Pavel Kashparov]

[Text] [Kashparov] The first round of elections to the French National Assembly takes place tomorrow. More than 4,000 candidates compete for the posts of deputies but only 491 will be elected. Thirty-three stand on behalf of the present government, which comprises 40 ministers and state secretaries. It is no coincidence that I have cited these figures, since the parties that are going to win these elections will get the right to form the new government cabinet. Over to Vladimir Dmitriyev, our correspondent in France. [begin recording]

[Dmitriyev] Officially the election campaign began on 20 February, but in fact it has been conducted since the spring of last year. The parties of the ruling bloc and those of the opposition held tens of mass meetings and assemblied in various regions of the country. There were discussions in the radio, television and press between political figures who set their electoral platforms, their tactics and socioeconomic reform programs. Observers note that the question concerning the majority of credentials in the National Assembly, necessary for parties to obtain the right to form a government, will be solved by only an insignificant number of votes.

[Kashparov] Vladimir Ivanovich, what can one say about the popularity of the preelection platform of the leftwing forces? After all, according to recent opinion polls, more than 50 percent of the French support it.

[Answer] Since the Communists, Socialists and Leftwing Radicals signed a Joint Program in 1972, the influence of the leftwing parties in the country has been growing parallel to the growth of support for this program by France's working populace. The document envisages economic transformations and an expansion of democratic and trade union freedoms, and defines the leftwing's main foreign policy lines should the parties that comprise it gain electoral success. And although the leftwing parties have not reached agreement on making the program more precise, or on making amendments to it in accordance with the demands of the present period, the Communists, the Socialists and the Leftwing Radicals unanimously admit the necessity for implementing the provisions of this document as the most important conditions of getting out of the crisis.

[Question] Is there any agreement yet among the leftwing bloc parties on concerted actions during the elections?

[Answer] Each of the leftwing opposition parties puts forward a complex of additional measures in the socioeconomic field and is going for the first round on its own. After this the question of transfering votes to benefit the candidate who has had the greatest success will be debated.

[Question] And what about the ruling majority's strategy?

[Answer] The ruling coalition, which has only 125 seats more than the opposition in the National Assembly, is trying to preserve its power by any means. Taking into consideration the deep dissatisfaction of the masses owing to the crisis, the continuing inflation and unemployment, they proclaimed a number of social reforms which, however, do not affect the interests of big business and which judging by everything, will not weaken the regime of harsh economy which only leads to the enrichment of the privileged stratum and the lowering of the working people's living standards. Over the recent period the party leaders dwelt a lot during the election campaign on foreign policy questions. It is symptomatic that there was not a single serious politician who would cast doubt on the principle of international detente, the principle of peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems.

Washington's attempts to interfere in the election campaign were resolutely condemned here. These attempts manifested themselves, in particular, in utterances and all sorts of recommendations by American officials concerning the undesirability of the participation by communist ministers in the French Government in the event of the leftwing forces' victory.

Even many bourgeois figures were forced to state publicly that the prerogative of solving France's internal affairs belongs to the French people and to no one else. Speaking on Radio Europe Number One, Georges Marchais, the secretary general of the French Communist Party, stressed the great significance of the present elections for the millions of working people who have great hopes for democratic changes and for an improvement in their standard of living in the event of the leftwing forces' victory and the implementation of the reforms they propose. And the reality of such a prospect, that is, the success of the leftwing is, in fact not being ruled out here, although no one is willing to risk a forecast about the outcome of the elections. [recording ends]

ANSCHLUSS LESSON DEEMED VALID FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

LD131105Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Article by R. Krestyaninov: "The Lessons of the Anschluss"]

[Text] It happened 40 years ago, on 12 March 1938. In the center of Europe the independent state of Austria ceased to exist. Hitler's Wehrmacht forced it to become a part of fascist Germany. This Anschluss was a black day in the history of Austria and prewar Europe in general.

In Austrian terms the Anschluss was the beginning of a national tragedy of German fascist domination which lasted 7 long years. The occupation of Austria demonstrated to the European peoples the reluctance of the ruling circles of the West European powers to counteract the fascist aggressor. Three weeks before Hitler's forces entered Austria, British Prime Minister Chamberlain had practically given his blessing to this criminal act by Hitler when he said that small countries should not have any illusions about the League of Nations being able to protect them against aggression.

Two weeks after the Anschluss, Britain and France hastened to "legitimate" fascism's latest crime by officially recognizing the annexation of Austria. The only European power to condemn the Anschluss as an act of aggression against an independent state was the USSR. Bearing in mind that if somebody goes unpunished he is encouraged to commit further aggressive acts, the Soviet Government stated its readiness to participate in collective actions which "would aim at checking the further development of aggression and eliminating the heightened danger of a new world war." However, the Western powers rejected these proposals.

Although it is now 40 years since the Anschluss its lessons are still valid today--not only for Austria but for Europe in general.

One of the main reasons why the Western powers cynically allowed Hitler to devour Austria and did not wish to participate in the USSR's collection action proposals was that they hoped to direct the fascist aggression against the first country of socialism--the USSR. This blind anticommunism had fatal consequences for the aggressors' patrons. It was not long before they too became victims of aggression. However, the bugbear of the "threat of communism" is still readily used by the ruling circles of the Western powers--particularly in order to subject small countries to their military-strategic plans and to implement a kind of Anschluss by linking them to their policy and forcing them to participate in the arms race. And all this in the name of the struggle against communism and the "Soviet threat."

The Anschluss which was the prelude to the Munich deal upset the shaky military-political equilibrium which had existed in Europe.

Fascism acquired an important bridgehead for further aggression. The Western powers' ruling circles had demonstrated their shortsightedness. Although prewar European policy-makers acknowledged some of the most loathsome deformities of fascism they reckoned that they could reach an understanding of their own with it. However, with no proper rebuff forthcoming, the fascist monster gathered strength and accelerated the preparation for and unleashing of a new world war.

The USSR played the decisive role in liberating Austria from fascism. The ground covered by Austria since it was granted full independence and since the conclusion of the 1955 State Treaty and the adoption of the law on permanent neutrality has resulted in Austria's currently playing the role of an important stabilizing factor in central Europe.

The European countries had to go through the horrors of World War II and then experience the cold war before they had sufficiently digested the lessons of their prewar history, including the lessons of the anschluss. The all-European conference in Helsinki proclaimed the stability of European borders. The maintenance of peace in Europe and the safeguarding of security on the continent are possible only on the basis of detente, cooperation and strengthening of trust among states and on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, not through the encouragement of aggression and military rivalry.

FRG PRESS CITED ON PURPOSE OF CALLAGHAN'S VISIT

LD122111Y Moscow TASS in English 2034 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, Mar 13 TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Grishin reports:

The British Prime Minister James Callaghan arrived here today for a working visit. No official program of his stay was announced.

In the view of political commentators, the urgent meeting of the British prime minister with the FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is due to the steep sharpening of the West's monetary-financial crisis. The paper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE notes that the initiative for the meeting came from Callaghan. The British Government, the paper writes, has repeatedly urged of late the implementation of concerted measures to envigorate world trade with the objective of overcoming the protracted economic crisis.

In the opinion of the paper GENERAL ANZEIGER, during his visit to Bonn the British prime minister intends to play the part of mediator between the FRG and the USA, to smooth over the differences these countries have over ways of improving the world economic situation.

The press bulletin PARLAMENTARISCH-POLITISCHER PRESSEDIENST writes that H. Schmidt and J. Callaghan will also discuss preparations for a session of the European Communities' Council, scheduled for July 6-7 in Hamburg, and a new conference by the leaders of the seven major capitalist countries on economic problems, to be held in Bonn in mid-July.

BRIEFS

CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH UK--Moscow, March 9, TASS--A plan for cooperation in 1978-1979, that was signed in Moscow today, provides for a further expansion of contacts between the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries, the "USSR-Great Britain" Society and the Anglo-Soviet friendship society. The plan provides for an exchange of delegations, exhibitions, art groups, various materials on the history and modern life of the USSR and Britain. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1616 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD]

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

ISRAELI RAID NOT EXCLUDED AFTER CLASH WITH PALESTINIANS

LD121427Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1405 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Beirut--The Palestinian news agency WAFA reports that an armed clash between a detachment of Palestinian partisans and Israeli Army units has occurred in the suburbs of Tel Aviv. During the exchange of fire over 30 soldiers were killed. American news agencies report that the number of killed and wounded during the battle exceeds 100 people and assert that the partisans seized two buses full of passengers. Israeli propaganda is trying to use this incident to discredit the PLO, and the Begin government openly regards it as a pretext for a major military provocation against neighboring Arab countries. Prime Minister Begin and Dayan, minister of foreign affairs, have cancelled their trip to the United States, scheduled for tomorrow, for talks with President J. Carter. Weizman, Israeli minister of defense, has interrupted his visit to Washington and set off hurriedly for Israel, stating to journalists that he does not exclude the possibility of "major raids" by the Israeli Air Force.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON YASIR 'ARAFAT VISIT TO USSR

Remarks on As-Sadat

LD112012Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Here now is Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, to speak to you [begin recording]: From the first moment we declared that we were against President as-Sadat's decision to visit Israel and occupied Jerusalem. In our opinion, what was intended was not the establishment of peace in the region; the entire affair was an operation designed by the imperialist forces led by the United States and the Zionist forces to establish a capitulationist peace, a peace under which American-Israeli conditions would be imposed on our Arab nation. The results that the visit so far unmask this operation for which so much clamor and publicity was made at the start, as though it were a peace initiative. The operation was, however, aborted because it was not a true one. It was reduced finally to an issue of settlement in Sinai and to the demand for keeping airports in Sinai and for keeping the Israeli base at Sharm ash-Shaykh, as well as for keeping the settlements on the West Bank, which are daily increasing in defiance of this so-called peace.

I wish to say that As-Sadat's operation has shrunk into this ugly policy pursued by Israel and those behind it. The illusion which surrounded the visit when it started has now dissipated, leaving the visit bare for all to see that it was no more than an operation intended to force our Arab nation to succumb to the logic of capitulation and defeat, to accept, for example, what they had previously offered us in the days of 'Abd an-Nasir and Rogers. In fact, the conditions set by Rogers during 'Abd an-Nasir's time were much better than the present conditions, yet 'Abd an-Nasir rejected them.

Now they say that they must remain in Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank. I wonder if they insist on a presence in all these areas. What kind of peaceful solution do they want. What they want is a colonialist solution, not a peaceful solution. In other words, they want to impose the imperialist-Zionist presence, which constitutes a bridge for the imperialist hegemony led by the United States, on our country through these settlements. Israel was founded on the principle of settlements from 1917 and up until now.

These settlements are the same as those in South Africa. The settlements in southern Africa are nothing more than footholds for the colonization of South Africa, Rhodesia and Namibia. Likewise, the Israeli settlements represent Zionist colonization in our Arab area. In this respect, we must understand what the Israeli flag signifies. The Israeli flag consists of blue lines with the Israeli star in the middle. But what are these blue lines? The first blue line represents the Nile, and the second represents the Euphrates. Then there is the Israeli star between the Nile and the Euphrates. This is what the Zionist dogma stands for--this is your land, Israel. It extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. From this we can understand why the United Nations condemned by a majority of over 95 votes, Zionism as a dogma--it is a fascist, Nazi expansionist dogma at the expense of the Arab area. [end recording]

Importance of Talks

LD101940Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Aleksandr Timoshkin commentary: "'Arafat's Visit to the USSR"]

[Text] Radio Moscow has reported in detail the visit of Yasir 'Arafat and his talks with Leonid Brezhnev, Andrey Gromyko and other Soviet state officials. For this reason, I will concentrate on the most important aspects of the Soviet-Palestinian talks, which prove beyond any doubt that the visit of the PLO Executive Committee delegation to the USSR has been fruitful and successful. The visit has undoubtedly been a new, positive contribution toward the cause of the development and strengthening of relations and cordial cooperation between the USSR and the Palestinians.

First of all, I wish to point out that the talks Yasir 'Arafat held with Leonid Brezhnev and Andrey Gromyko confirmed the sides' unity of the views with regard to a large number of matters pertaining to the current situation in the Middle East and the establishment of a just and lasting peace and the guaranteeing of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. It has been emphasized that the unity of all progressive forces in the Arab world and their cohesion with their natural allies, the USSR and other socialist community member countries, play an extremely important role in the situation in the Middle East. I am confident, gentlemen, that you agree with me in this matter.

The experiences of the Arab struggle against imperialism and for national liberation indicate that the Arabs have always achieved victory whenever they acted in cohesion and cooperated with their allies. These experiences also indicate that any inter-Arab conflict, any break in their front and any weakness in Soviet-Arab friendship and cooperation lead to extreme weakness in the Arab states' positions vis-a-vis the aggressors and their mentors.

The best proof of this can be found in the policy of the Egyptian leadership, which caused Egypt to lose its leading role in the Arab liberation movement and sentenced it to isolation in the Arab world. For this reason, it is completely natural that the USSR and the PLO and the leading Arab countries should oppose Cairo's unilateral policy. They feel that the capitulationist actions of the Egyptian leadership on the road of unilateral deals with Israel obstruct the achievement of a just and lasting comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The USSR, the PLO and the leading Arab states are confident that the settlement must provide for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and guarantee the retrieval of the national rights of the Palestine people including their right to self-determination, to set up their own state and to return to their homes in accordance with UN resolutions.

In his talks with Yasir 'Arafat, Leonid Brezhnev affirmed that t... USSR alw... and will continue to stand on the side of the just cause of the Palestine Arab people who fight steadily for their freedom and national independence. In this regard, I wish to quote what Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin said on Thursday at the Kremlin during the banquet he held in honor of the Moroccan prime minister. Aleksey Kosygin said that the USSR feels that the state of the Palestinian Arabs must occupy its place among other Middle East countries.

Thus our country is fully confident of the victory of the just cause of the Palestinian people. I do not exaggerate if I say that this confidence provides new impetus for the strugglers for the retrieval of the national rights usurped by Zionism and the imperialists from 3 million Palestinians.

In conclusion, I wish to refer to what Yasir 'Arafat said during his talks with Leonid Brezhnev to the effect that the Palestine resistance movement considers the bolstering of friendship with the USSR as one of its principal tasks. For his part, Leonid Brezhnev assured the Palestinian people that they can always rely on Soviet support.

Departure Statement

LD101534Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1230 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The PLO delegation headed by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Moscow today. Before leaving Moscow, Yasir 'Arafat made a declaration to our correspondent. He said: ['Arafat--begin recording] Undoubtedly, on leaving the Soviet Union and the friendly Soviet people I cannot help but note, with all pride, the firm and principled stands of the Soviet Union, the friendly Soviet people, the Soviet leadership, the CPSU and Comrade Brezhnev--the friend of our Palestinian people who stands by their struggle. I cannot help but note, with all pride, these unswerving and firm stands, which stem from a principled, constant position adopted by the Soviet Union in accordance with the principles of the great Lenin, in support of the peoples struggling for their freedom and independence, for a better world--one free from exploitation, imperialism and Zionism--and for a just and lasting peace in the world and in the Middle East region. Once again I reiterate my thanks in my own name, on behalf of our people and on behalf of our revolutionaries for all the positions and the aid given to us, our people and the Arab nation at large by the Soviet Union. We do not forget that this aid has enabled the Arab nation to beat all its enemies: imperialists, Zionists and colonialists. [end recording]

FURTHER MATERIAL ON MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

End of Kremlin Talks

LD101140Y Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--Soviet-Moroccan negotiations between Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Ahmed Osman, prime minister of Morocco, ended in the Kremlin today. The two sides continued an exchange of opinions on bilateral Soviet-Moroccan relations, set out some concrete directions of further development of mutually-beneficial links between the two countries in trade, industry, science and other spheres. In discussing pressing international problems much attention was paid to further deepening of the process of relaxation of international tension and the need to spread it to all regions of the world. A joint communique to be published in the press has been agreed upon.

Luncheon for Kosygin

LD101306Y Moscow TASS in English 1301 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--Morocco's prime minister, Ahmed Osman, now staying in the USSR on a working visit, gave a luncheon today in honour of chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin. Present at the luncheon together with Aleksey Kosygin were first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Kirill Mazurov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers and other officials. The persons accompanying the head of the Moroccan Government were present at the luncheon. Ahmed Osman and Aleksey Kosygin exchanged friendly toasts.

Agreement, Protocol Signed

LD101656Y Moscow TASS in English 1535 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10 TASS--A long-term agreement on economic and technical cooperation in the field of phosphates between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and also a protocol between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on exchange of some commodities were signed here today. The documents were signed for the Soviet Government by the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Aleksey Kosygin, and for the Moroccan Government by the prime minister of Morocco, Ahmed Osman. Then signed was a protocol on financing work connected with the realisation of the first stage of developing the Meskala phosphate deposits. This document was signed by the chairman of the standing committee for (?external) economic ties [name indistinct] and the general director of the national phosphates agency Mohamed Karim Lamrani. (??he protocol on) exchange of certain commodities in the period from 1978 to 1980 was signed by the USSR minister of foreign trade, Nikolay Patolichev, and the general director of the national phosphates agency, Mohammed Karim Lamrani.

Present at the signing of the documents were member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Kirill Mazurov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, ministers of the USSR and other officials.

Lenin Mausoleum

LD101700Y Moscow TASS in English 1538 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10 TASS--Prime Minister of Morocco Ahmed Osman, now on a working visit to the USSR, today visited the Lenin mausoleum and laid a wreath there. A wreath was also laid to the unknown soldiers' tomb at the Kremlin wall.

Leningrad Arrival

LD111448Y Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 11, TASS--Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman has arrived here from Moscow today. Pulkovo airport was decked on the occasion of his arrival with the national flags of Morocco and the Soviet Union. Together with the prime minister, who is currently on a working visit in the Soviet Union, the statesmen accompanying him and Moroccan ambassador to the USSR Maati Jorio arrived in Leningrad, this country's second in size and significance city.

The guest went from the airport accompanied by an escort of honour of motorcyclists to the government residence assigned to him. Thousands of Leningraders welcomed him in the avenues and squares, through which the motorcade drove.

Ahmed Osman saw today the monument to the heroic defenders of Leningrad in Victory Square. This majestic memorial symbolising the courage of Leningraders during the years of the Second World War was built with the money raised by the people. The prime-minister of Morocco laid red carnations to the eternal fire of the monument. He was shown round the memorial hall, collected in which are relics of the years of the blockade, when the city was in the ring of enemy siege for 900 days. There is a memorial plaque in the hall with the names of heroes.

Leningrad Cemetery Visit

LD111622Y Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 11, TASS--The national anthems of Morocco and the Soviet Union were played today at the Piskaryov memorial cemetery in Leningrad today. They were played during the laying of wreath by Ahmed Osman, prime minister of Morocco, to the collective graves, where more than half a million Leningraders and servicemen, who fell during the years of the Second World War, are buried. Leningrad was besieged by Nazi troops for 900 days and nights. Under the permanent shelling and bombing, the defenders of the city repelled the onslaught of the enemy. Expressing his admiration for the feat of the heroes, Ahmed Osman has left the following entry in the honorary visitors' book of the memorial: "In this sacred place I bow my head to the memory of those who gave up their lives for their homeland's happiness." A guard of honour of the troops of the Leningrad garrison was mustered in the field of the memorial in honour of the prime minister.

The guest, who arrived here from Moscow, also familiarised himself today with the historical places of interest in Leningrad and on its outskirts. The Moroccan prime minister is on a working visit to the USSR.

Visits to Cruiser, Hermitage

LD121637Y Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 12, TASS--The prime minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, Ahmed Osman, today continued his acquaintance with this city. His arrival here yesterday was in accordance with the program of his working visit to the Soviet Union.

On their round of places of interest associated with Leningrad's revolutionary history, Ahmed Osman and his company visited the cruiser Aurora, a memorial to the 1917 Great October Socialist Revolution. At present the cruiser has been turned into a musuem. Military honours were paid to the prime minister on board the Aurora: the crew was lined up, and the state flag of the Kingdom of Morocco was raised on the mast.

Then Ahmed Osman visited the biggest Soviet museum of world art, the Hermitage, whose stocks include more than three million cultural monuments from antiquity to this day. The original art of African peoples is also widely represented.

Radio Interview

LD122058Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman's working visit to our country continues. Today the delegation arrived in Moscow from Leningrad, which the Moroccan guests had made briefly visited.

Ahmed Osman gave an interview today to a Soviet radio correspondent. He said in particular: [Osman--recorded in French, fading into Russian] We regard the results of our visit as very positive. This concerns the development of relations between our countries not only in the sphere of economy and trade but also in other spheres. During the talks mutual interest was voiced about the expansion of Soviet-Moroccan cooperation. In particular we see the agreement signed between the USSR and Morocco on economic and technical cooperation in the field of phosphates as extremely important. Such major agreements are not signed every day, and we think its long-term nature indicates the mutual trust between the two states. We also thing that this trust is a starting point for the development of further Soviet-Moroccan cooperation.

I am very touched by the warm welcome given to our delegation on Soviet soil. Our visit has been brief but very full, and we are glad that we were able to visit such a beautiful city as Leningrad, which we consider to be the symbol of eternal Russia, the symbol of true Russian culture. The history of Leningrad is the history of the struggle of a great people for their freedom and independence, a people whose thoughts are turned to the future. It is the history of a country which was transformed into a mighty modern state by the genius of the great Lenin.

13 March Departure

LD130748Y Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 13, TASS--Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman has left for home today. He was on a seven-day working visit in the Soviet Union.

At the airport decked with the national flags of the two countries, Ahmed Osman was seen off by Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin and other officials.

In Moscow, the guest held talks with Aleksey Kosygin, which ended in the signing of a number of important documents.

Apart from Moscow, Ahmed Osman visited Leningrad.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE IN CYPRUS NOTED

LD081928Y Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 8 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, March 8 TASS--Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou today announced a reorganization of the Republic's government.

Nikos Rolandhis, member of the Democratic Party, became the new minister of foreign affairs. Almost all the new ministers are members of the Democratic Party which is headed by the president of the Republic of Cyprus, Spiros Kiprianou.

AKEL STATEMENT ON NEW CYPRUS GOVERNMENT CITED

LD092108Y Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, March 9 TASS--At the present critical stage through which Cyprus is passing it is of paramount importance to ensure unity of all the patriotic and democratic forces of the people, it is said in a statement by the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) that was circulated here in connection with the organisation of the Cyprus Government. The striving towards such unity, the document notes, should find its reflection also in the forming of a government capable of utilising President Kiprianou's election programme as its programme-minimum.

On voicing regret that AKEL representatives were not included in the new cabinet, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee stressed that despite this the party has no prejudices in respect of the government and will judge it by its concrete deeds and policies. AKEL will approve all positive measures of the government and give them every support.

The new government, the statement says further, is beginning its activities in a complex situation. Many burning questions are awaiting their solution, first of all the Cyprus question, which should be resolved on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

KIPRIANOU STATEMENT REITERATES LAW ON PURGING

LD121632Y Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Nicosia, March 12, TASS--In a statement published here today President Spiro Kiprianou reiterated his government's intention to implement the law on purging the state apparatus as soon as possible, so that the main culprits of the tragic events on Cyprus in 1974 would receive the punishment they deserve. The president stressed that the earliest implementation of the purge legislation will considerably contribute to the consolidation of the internal situation. At the same time the government plans other measures for consolidating the situation and maximum boosting of law and order.

The government has information at its disposal, the statement indicates, that certain elements may try and recreate illegal groups aimed at undermining state authority. I have warned that if the state is fully resolved to cut short any such attempts and, if need be, even take preventive measures, the president stressed.

He called on all the members and former members of the "EOKA-2" terrorist organization to completely give up their undergound activities and surrender weapons to the authorities before May 15.

The president stressed that the unity of the people is the crucial prerequisite for the people's successful struggle for a just solution of the Cyprus question.

CONTINUING MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Somali Retreat; Eritrea Struggle

LD101406Y Moscow TASS in English 1348 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 10 TASS--The Ethiopian national revolutionary operational command reported that military actions to drive Somali invaders out of Hararge Province continue. The enemy is in a disorderly retreat. At the same time, units of the people's militia and security forces in close cooperation with the local people stepped up operations to drive units of the Somali regular Army out of Bale and Sidamo provinces in the south and south east of the country.

In the northern Province of Eritrea the struggle is waged against gangs of secessionists that are receiving vast military and other aid from reactionary regimes that hope to create in Eritrea a vassal state and to establish their control over the Red Sea.

Rome, March 10 TASS--The Ethiopian troops liberated the town of Aysha and the majority of districts along the important railway linking Addis Ababa and Djibouti on which traffic will soon resume, said Ethiopia's ambassador in Rome. He pointed out that Ethiopian troops advancing in the easterly direction after the liberation of Jijiga stopped 32 kilometres away from the borderline Somalian town of Hargeisa and turned south, liberating other areas of the Ogaden.

New Areas Freed

LD121200Y Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 12, TASS--The national flag of Ethiopia again flutters above the city of Aysha, important strategic point of the eastern Province of Hararge and a large railway junction on the way from Addis Ababa to Djibouti. As the national revolutionary operations command reported, in recent days the armed forces and detachments of people's militia also liberated the towns of Adigala, Dagmeda and Bio Caboba. Thus, Ethiopia restored control over most of areas in the country's east. Somali troops continue retreating in all lines. Units of the armed forces and detachments of people's militia win victories on the southern front as well, the command's report points out. The town of Filtu is liberated in Sidamo Province. The counteroffensive continues to develop successfully. The national revolutionary operations command called on all citizens of the country to make new efforts for the sake of final triumph, for a step-up of struggle in defence of the gains of the revolution and the country's unity.

Somali Border Reached

LD130736Y Moscow TASS in English 0643 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 13, TASS--The armed forces and detachments of the people's militia of Ethiopia, successfully developing the counteroffensive on the eastern and southern fronts, have liberated these days the towns of Segag, Kebri-Dehar, Korane and Aware in Hararge Province and also the towns of Bokolmayao and Dolo in Sidamo Province, and reaching the state border with Somalia in the southern direction. This is reported by the national revolutionary operative command.

The command's communique stresses that the current successes on the fronts of struggle against the Somalia aggressors testify to the resolve of Ethiopia's People's Army to defend the gains of the revolution and the country's unity.

Ethiopian Foreign Ministry Statement

LD121437Y Moscow TASS in English 1406 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 12, TASS--The people and Government of Ethiopia are fully determined to achieve restoration of peace in the Horn of Africa. This goal can be achieved only provided the leaders of Somalia, without any preliminary conditions, abandon claims to part of Ethiopia's and Kenya's territory as well as to Djibouti. This is said in a statement issued here by the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The statement also emphasizes that peace and stability will be restored only when Somalia assumes an obligation to strictly implement the principles and resolution of the UNO and the Organisation of African Unity on the foundations of inter-state relations. There are first of all the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and renunciation of the use of force in resolving international disputes.

The statement points out that drawing to an end is the war which was unleashed by Somalia against Ethiopia and which inflicted a material damage of hundreds of millions of dollars upon Ethiopia and took a great toll of human lives. The war is drawing to an end as a result of the vigorous struggle launched against the invaders by the Ethiopian people with an active support from friendly progressive countries whose principled stand of opposition to the aggression is highly appreciated by Ethiopia.

In the conditions when the invader troops retreat in disorder, it is not surprising that the Mogadiscio leaders and their allies are calling for a ceasefire. They did not call for a ceasefire, however, when Somali Army units were entering Ethiopia's territory. On the contrary, on those days imperialist powers and their mass media trumpeted their successes. As far as Ethiopia is concerned, it from the very beginning of the conflict has been for its peaceful solution in accordance with the U.N. and OAU charters. It strives for peace now as well. The statement points out the present war was imposed on Ethiopia, but this does not mean that there exist sentiments of hostility or some differences between the fraternal peoples of Ethiopia and Somalia.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is resolutely rejecting the attempts by the U.S. Government and its allies to interfere in the solution of matters which fall under Ethiopia's sovereignty. Those are, in particular, attempts to link Somali troops' withdrawal with the presence in Ethiopia of military personnel invited by the Ethiopian Government as well as the proposal to send foreign observers to Ethiopia. All those attempts are tantamount to an interference in the internal affairs of our country. They are unacceptable to Ethiopia and cannot serve the cause of establishing peace, the statement emphasizes.

Nationalities Question

LD101600Y Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 10, TASS--Commenting on Somalia's decision to withdraw its troops from the territory of Ethiopia's Ogaden Province, a spokesman of the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry stated that "apparently the Somali side has lost all hope and realized that the war for it is lost".

Speaking of the terms set forth by Somalia in connection with the withdrawal of its troops from Ethiopia, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed that "the losing side does not set terms". On the other hand, he added, the question of the self-determination of some Ethiopian nationalities will be settled as an internal question and not as an item on the agenda of a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia.

NATO, Peking Instigators

LD101758Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Reports from Addis Ababa say the Ethiopian troops continue to advance and press hard on the Somali Army that invaded the country. Fearing complete defeat in the Ogaden, the Somali authorities said they were withdrawing their troops from the region. Here is more about that from Radio Moscow commentator Vladislav Chernukha:

The Ethiopian leaders have stressed repeatedly that the advancement of their troops has only one objective and that is to liberate occupied territory. They do not intend to cross the border with Somalia. It is has likewise been pointed out that Ethiopia has no territorial claims to Somalia. It wants to build its relations with that country on the basis of good neighborliness and friendship.

However, certain political leaders and the mass media in the West prefer to take no notice of those statements. They must go on saying that there is a threat of invasion into Somalia. To distract attention from its role in the events in the Horn of Africa, the West tries to distort the position of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as regards the conflict. The NATO instigators have been joined by Peking, which gives direct assistance to the aggressor by sending arms to it. Such is the real meaning of Peking's declarations about its sincere friendship with all African peoples.

As for the Soviet Union, it has from the very beginning taken a stand that is in the real interests of the people of Somalia, Ethiopia and all of Africa.

[Moscow in English to North America at 2330 GMT on 10 March broadcasts a variant version of this item which renders above passages as follows:]

[First paragraph last line reads...commentator Vladislav Chernukha:

["The Somali leaders declared that the decision about the withdrawal was taken following consultations with great powers. Radio Mogadiscio says the move is bound to open up the way for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. In Washington President Carter welcomed the decision of the Somalian Government. For 6 months Somalia has been carrying out an aggression against Ethiopia, and throughout this period none of the great powers that Somalia consulted with shortly before the defeat ever tried to advise the aggressor to end the hostilities, withdraw its troops from the foreign territory and settle the conflict by peaceful means. That was exactly what the Ethiopian Government had been calling for. The Soviet Union was making the same appeals. From the very beginning the Soviet Union did what it could to end the conflict and convince the Somalian leaders that it was impermissible to resolve it by force."]

It's convinced that disputes between countries should be settled by peaceful means alone. That is why it has warned the Somali leadership against attacking Ethiopia. But when the attack did take place, the Soviet Union sided with the victim of the aggressor. At the same time it continued to press for settling the territorial dispute at the negotiating table on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty, inviolability of borders and noninterference.

Speaking at a dinner in honor of Morocco's prime minister, Ahmed Osman in Moscow, the head of Soviet Government, Aleksey Kosygin, stressed that the Soviet Union does not seek one-sided advantages for itself in any country of the world. It does not want to build strongholds to impose its policy and spread its influence.

[At this point, the 2230 GMT version adds:

["The United States was aware of that as much as of the fact that it was Somalia who unleashed the aggression against her neighbor. The fact was admitted by President Carter and his national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski. Yet the United States preferred to take the onlooker's stand. At any rate the United States pretended it was so. In reality it encouraged arms deliveries to Somalia through third countries and supplied Somalia with its own consignments of defensive weapons. It also gave moral support to the agressor by spreading rumors about the inevitable invasion of Somalia by the Ethiopian Army. Washington officials refused to take an honest and principled stand toward the conflict in the Horn of Africa and to condemn the aggression. By doing so they undoubtedly helped the Somalian leaders justify the military hostilities. What's more Washington began to link the conflict in the Horn of Africa with the Soviet-American talks on limiting strategic arms. That was an obvious attempt to distort the Soviet Union's clearcut position on the issue. What the United States was actually trying to do was to place on the Soviet Union the responsibility for slowing down the SALT negotiations. So the tragedy of the African Horn, which cost many thousands of lives owing to Somalia's expansionism, was used by the West to meet its selfish political ends. The much-lauded nobleness and honesty of American foreign policy yielded once again to the desire to fish in troubled waters and to make political capital on anti-Soviet slandering."]

ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU RECEIVES CEMA DELEGATION

LD112252Y Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 11, TASS--In their struggle for freedom and justice, for revolutionary transformations [words indistinct] the people of Ethiopia rely [word indistinct] on the support of the countries of the socialist community, said Chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council Mengistu Haile Mariam, receiving a CMEA delegation here.

The numerous problems inherited by the country from the feudal-monarchic regime as well as the continuing conflict in the area of the Horn of Africa, he [word indistinct] are obstacles in the way of the revolution and [word indistinct] economic development. The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council stressed that the disinterested aid and support by the socialist states [words indistinct] struggle for the strengthening of revolutionary gains of Ethiopia, for the country's progress.

Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed gratitude to the CMEA member-countries for their efforts for assistance to Ethiopia in resolving her economic problems.

MORE MATERIAL ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING RHODESIA

U.S., U.K. Plans

LD112124Y Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

["Western Powers' New Manoeuvres"--TASS headline]

[Text] London, March 11, TASS--Britain and the United States intend to call a new conference on Rhodesia. This was announced on Friday by U.S. President James Carter and British Foreign Secretary David Owen, who agreed upon this plan at a meeting in Washington. Apart from Britain, the United States and the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the conference is planned to be attended by ring-leader of the illegal Rhodesian regime, Smith, [words indistinct] last week already signed in Salisbury an agreement on the so-called "internal settlement."

Realising that without the participation of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front in solution of the Rhodesian issue (?"the agent") in Salisbury is nothing but a fiction, Britain and the United States seek to draw the patriots into the deal. London and Washington try to exert pressure upon the leaders of the front, the newspaper MORNING STAR writes today.

(?It was) exactly Britain's and the United States' undisguised connivance at the racists that helped the Smith clique to push through the plan of "internal settlement", which has the aim to preserve the white minority rule in the country and protect the interests of Western monopolies there.

At the current meeting of the U.N. Security Council, which discusses the situation in Rhodesia, the overwhelming (?number of) the delegates strongly denounced the collusion of the racists and the African collaborationists, which is fraught with aggravation of tension in Africa.

The leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front resolutely turn down all manoeuvres of the racists and their supporters and declare their determination to continued struggle against the illegal Smith regime for genuine independence and freedom of the Zimbabwe people.

Elections a 'Political Trick'

LD122333Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The racist authorities in Salisbury have announced that so-called general parliamentary elections are to take place on 31 December this year in Rhodesia. In keeping with the agreement on the internal settlement signed recently by Smith, head of the racists and a handful of African puppet figures, these elections are to signify the transfer of power in the country to the hands of the African majority.

The Western propaganda organs speak in sensational terms of the coming elections, claiming that they will be the first truly democratic elections in Rhodesia's history, as they will be conducted on the basis of the "one-man, one vote" principle.

However, the recognition of this principle in no way means the automatic elimination of the white settlers' domination or the establishment of African majority rule, which is what the people of Zimbabwe are struggling for under the leadership of the Patriotic Front. While making capital out of the "general" nature of the announced elections, Smith and his apprentices are keeping quiet under what conditions and under whose control they are to be conducted.

The notorious internal settlement agreement envisages the preservation intact of the entire repressive military-police apparatus of the white minority, and this is why there can be no talk of the people expressing their free will. What is more, even before the elections it has been determined that 28 out of the 100 parliamentary seats are for the European settlers, who make up only 4 percent of Rhodesia's inhabitants. In addition these deputies will be chosen from special lists for whites. Thus, racial discrimination is consolidated even in the course of the elections.

Furthermore, it has already been stipulated that the future parliament will not be able to adopt any responsible decision without the approval of the white deputies. According to the internal settlement agreement, this situation is to remain unchanged for no less than 10 years. As can be seen, the coming elections are a political trick, which according to the organizer's plans' should create the appearance of a transfer of power in Rhodesia to the African majority but should in fact consolidate and legalize the domination of the white minority. This is why the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front rejects the racists' maneuvers and declares the Zimbabwe peoples' decision to continue the struggle for true independence and self-determination.

Patriotic Front Firmness

LD112201Y Moscow in English to Africa 1500 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] In the debate continuing at the Security Council, the representatives of African, other developing countries and the socialist states are unanimously condemning the so-called internal settlement concluded behind the backs of the people of Zimbabwe as a deal leading to the setting up of a puppet regime. What is the position of the Western states in the situation? The answer is provided by Radio Moscow observer Andrey Dolgov, who writes:

That was an unheard-of scandal. U.S. Delegate at the United Nations Andrew Young accused Britain of pursuing a policy in Rhodesia that had led to a dead end. Further, he accused Britain of now washing her hands and leaving America in a difficult position. In the London press this caused great indignation and Britain's foreign secretary, Owen, stated that it wasn't Young who determined U.S. policy, and Dr Owen said that in general there are no differences between the United States and Britain.

In essence, there really aren't any. Both powers are trying to achieve a neocolonial settlement and to set up in Zimbabwe a regime that would be pro-Western, procapitalist, preserve the privileges of the whites and be a buffer shielding the citadel of the imperialist monopolies based on the South African territory. In this sense, the deal between Smith on the one hand and Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau on the other satisfied the West in full. But the preventing factor is Zimbabwe's Patriotic Front and the guerrilla war it is waging. The front is recognized by independent Africa as the only legitimate representative of the Zimbabwe people and does not intend to share power with Smith's African puppets or to agree to any other neocolonialist variants.

When Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe arrived in New York for the Security Council meeting, they confirmed that the armed struggle would continue to a victorious end. The position of the Patriotic Front has been supported by the OAU, and the discussion at the Security Council is developing in the same direction.

The Western powers see their most important aim in bringing about an end to the armed struggle, which they fear will result in the victory of the left, radical forces. That is why the Western powers would like to come to an agreement with the Patriotic Front. But, on the other hand, they don't want the front to be in power in Zimbabwe.

The Western powers feel that for them the best variant would be to involve the front in talks with the participants of the front's leaders. The Western powers will not succeed in their maneuvers. This situation and the obviously unfavorable, for the West, trend of discussion at the Security Council causes confusion in London and Washington. British diplomacy had been inclined to recognize the so-called internal settlement in the hope of splitting and isolating the Patriotic Front. The men in Washington at first agreed with them but then caution took the upper hand. Of course, there is no point in exaggerating the difference. What's much more important is the firmness of the Patriotic Front and the unity of independent Africa, Andrey Dolgov writes in conclusion.

Nkomo Interview

LD121312Y Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 12, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: Joshua Nkomo, one of the leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, expressed the sentiments of deep gratitude to the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and to all progressive forces of the world that support the national liberation movement of African peoples. In an interview with the TASS correspondent, Joshua Nkomo said that were it not for the help and support on the part of socialist countries, and first of all the Soviet Union, the people of Zimbabwe could not have waged the successful struggle for independence. He pointed out that the USSR's principled stand has always been and is in all-round support to the national liberation movements of colonial peoples who struggle for freedom and independence. Relying on this support, the people of Zimbabwe are firmly resolved to frustrate the intrigues of the racist regime of Smith and gain freedom and independence, he said. Joshua Nkomo firmly rejected the plan for so-called "internal settlement" in Rhodesia, "settlement" which the racists and their patrons in the West are trying to impose on the people of Zimbabwe. He pointed out that Smith resorted to puppets' help to perpetuate this criminal policy against the people of Zimbabwe and to try to delude the world public opinion. Racists' manoeuvring however, will not stop the Zimbabwe people's advance to genuine independence and self-determination Joshua Nkomo went on to say. He pointed out that racists' intrigues are a threat not only to the people of Zimbabwe but also to the entire African Continent. The duty of the world community, Joshua Nkomo emphasized in conclusion, is to condemn the racist regimes, to stave off danger which overshadows the peoples of southern Africa and to achieve their deliverance from racists' dominance.

UN Debate

LD101316Y Moscow TASS in English 0940 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 10, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports: The U.N. Security Council, which discusses the situation in Rhodesia, is underway here. Representatives of sovereign African countries in their speeches resolutely denounced the Salisbury collusion between the ringleader of the racist regime, Smith, and the African puppet leaders over the so-called "internal settlement".

Speaking on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, Leon Ndong, Gabon's permanent representative at the United Nations, emphasized that the manoeuvres the illegal regime resorts to are "part of an imperialist conspiracy which has the aim to prevent the transfer of power to genuine representatives of the Zimbabwe people".

The OAU, he said, is fully determined to frustrate these insidious plans and ensure Zimbabwe's full independence. The white minority regimes are trying to keep in check the process of decolonization in the south of Africa and turn back the wheel of history, said the OAU representative. Therefore it is the duty of all peace-loving peoples to denounce the so-called "internal settlement" which disregards the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, the front ranker in the struggle for freedom of that country.

The illegal deal in Salisbury was also condemned by representatives of Kuwait, India, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Botswana.

Speeches made by leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, who set out the principled stand of the Patriotic forces of the people of Zimbabwe, were received with profound attention. They reaffirmed the Zimbabwe people's firm determination to continue the armed struggle for independence. We shall recognize only such a settlement of the Rhodesian problem that would envisage full and final elimination of the racist-colonial order and the transfer of power in Zimbabwe to the African majority, said the leaders of the Patriotic Front. They noted that the dangerous manoeuvres of the racists and the imperialist circles, which support them, have the aim to prop up the anti-popular regimes in the south of the continent and use them for subversive actions against free Africa, to commit acts of armed aggression against front-line African states.

Nkomo and Mugabe expressed gratitude to the independent African states, to all progressive forces of the world, primarily the socialist states, for the firm and consistent support of the Zimbabwe people's struggle for freedom.

ZAMBIA REPELS RHODESIAN ATTACK, SPOKESMAN SAYS

LD101320Y Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Lusaka, March 10, TASS--The Zambian Armed Forces have successfully beaten back an attack by the Rhodesian aggressors, a Zambian Government spokesman said here. The situation near the city of Luangwa, where the racists crossed the republican frontier, remains strained, he said, because the Smith regime is stepping up its war preparations in the adjacent area.

FRG-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR COOPERATION DESCRIBED

LD091226Y Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 9, TASS--The "Anti-Imperialist Information Bulletin", which comes out in Marburg, has reported on new facts testifying to cooperation between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of South Africa. It is noted in the last issue of the bulletin that a large-scale uranium enrichment plant is being put up top secretly 140 kilometres to the east of Johannesburg. Taking part in its construction are such leading West-German power-engineering concerns as Siemens, Man, Linde, Metallgesellschaft Lurgi and others. According to the press bulletin, the concerns are delivering their production to the Republic of South Africa by the round-about way, through dummy firms. It was learnt at the end of January, the press bulletin says, that the Munich Steigerwald firm, which is the property of the West-German state, is also taking part in the atomic cooperation with the Republic of South Africa. It delivers, specifically, electronic equipment, which allows South Africa to manufacture parts for atomic reactors which had hitherto been imported.

The press bulletin also stresses that in the opinion of experts the deliveries of such strategic materials to the Republic of South Africa has been sanctioned by NATO agencies.

SWAPO DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES

LD121634Y Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 12, TASS--The South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) demanded immediate withdrawal of the South African occupation troops from Namibia's territory. Speaking at a press conference in Lusaka, Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, emphasized that the power in the country should be transferred to genuine representatives of its people. He severely condemned the genocide policy which the South-African racists pursue against the people of Namibia. On behalf of the SWAPO he demanded that the Republic of South Africa cease aggressive acts against sovereign African states, among which Angola, Zambia and Mozambique arouse the racists' particular hatred. Van der Mesch, a serviceman of the Army of the Republic of South Africa, who was taken prisoner by SWAPO fighting-men during fighting in Namibia's north, was introduced to the press conference. According to him, the strength of South African troops concentrated in Namibia on the border with Angola is now 55,000. Mercenaries from West European countries serve in those units together with South Africans. Members of the Angolan FNLA and UNITA splitting alignments undergo training under the direction of instructors from the Republic of South Africa in big camps along the border with Angola. Raids on Angola's territory are made jointly by these bands and regular army units of the Republic of South Africa.

NYERERE ASKS FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR SWAPO

LD121637Y Moscow TASS in English 1408 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Dar es Salaam, March 12, TASS--The withdrawal of the occupying troops and administration of the RSA from Namibian territory is the main condition for the successful solution of that country's problems, stated Tanzania's president Julius Nyerere at a meeting with a delegation of the U.N. Council for Namibia. He urged the world community to help expel the occupying forces by stepping up moral and material support for the Namibian people's armed liberation struggle, led by the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

ANGOLAN-UN COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR FREEDOM FOR NAMIBIA

LD121147Y Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 12 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 12, TASS--The embattled people of Namibia have full and inalienable right to self-determination, freedom and independence, as well as to the preservation of the country's territorial integrity. This is stated in the joint communique, circulated here, of the Government of the People's Republic of Angola (PRA) and the mission of the U.N. Council on Namibia. The Government of the PRA and the mission of the U.N. Council on Namibia, the communique points out, reaffirm their full support for the people of Namibia, who under the leadership of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) struggle arms in hand for their freedom and independence. The sides condemned the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa for systematic acts of genocide against the people of Namibia and demanded an immediate end to the illegal occupation of the country. The continued occupation of Namibia by the South-African troops is directed not only against its people but also against the UNO which bears full responsibility for the territory until its independence is proclaimed, the communique emphasizes.

The document firmly rejects Pretoria's attempts to substitute the so-called "constitutional settlement" which is aimed at setting up a puppet regime in the country for the questions of Namibia's independence. The country's division into bantustans and the setting up of tribal armies are aimed at provoking a civil war, the communique says.

The Government of the PRA and the mission of the U.N. Council on Namibia demand that the racist regime of Pretoria abandon unlawful attempts at annexing Walvis Bay--integral part of Namibia's territory.

In conclusion the communique is calling on all U.N. member nations to widen all-round support to the struggle of the people of that country for self-determination, freedom and national independence.

INDONESIAN PRESIDENT STRESSES INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY

LD130746Y Moscow TASS in English 0645 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Jakarta, March 13, TASS--Indonesia intends to pursue further an independent and active foreign policy line and develop relations with all states irrespective of their socio-political system, President Suharto told the session of the People's Consultative Assembly. Addressing deputies of the country's supreme legislative body with a report on the activity of the government, the head of state stressed that Indonesia will further participate in the non-alignment movement and contribute towards strengthening peace both in Southeast Asia and all over the world. Rejecting any forms of colonialism and oppression, the president stressed, the Indonesian Government comes out against the racialist regimes in the south of Africa and supports the just struggle of the Arab states and the Arab people of Palestine for the elimination of the aftermaths of the Israeli aggression.

ASIAN COUNTRIES SHAKEN BY PRC-SPONSORED SUBVERSION

BK1015507 Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia 1500 GMT 8 Mar 78 BK

[Vladimir Viktorov commentary: "Valid Apprehension"]

[Text] Speaking at the National People's Congress PRC premier Hua Kuo-feng disclosed, among other things, that China desires to restore diplomatic relations with Indonesia, which have been frozen since 1967.

We must believe that the statement of the Chinese leader was made in the context of the old Maoist foreign policy concept. Efforts toward realizing this concept in the past have led to the worsening of China's relations with Indonesia and other neighboring countries. This development has attracted the attention of political circles in Southeast Asian countries. Acting Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, for instance, remarked that Peking has officially received Adjitorop, leader of the so-called Indonesian Communist Party Central Committee delegation.

This splinter group has been utilized by Peking leaders since 1965 to plant such adventurous Maoist concepts as "political power grows out of the barrel of the gun" or "surrounding the cities from rural areas" in Indonesia. Peking's attempt to link these concepts was seen in Indonesia as interference in Indonesia's internal affairs. The exploitation by Peking of illegal Chinese immigrants, posing as Overseas Chinese, has also added to the logical apprehension among the broad masses in Indonesia.

The Indonesian press has frequently carried articles exposing plots by various groups trying to subvert, disrupt and disturb Indonesian society and the economy. Illegal syndicates operating in Bandung, Pontianak and other Indonesian towns appear to have connections with mainland China via Hong Kong and Macao. Their cunning operations also have created suspicion.

According to data, tens of thousands of illegal immigrants from China, who were provided with fake documents, have been detained in Indonesia in the last few months. Many of them have confessed that they have been trained by Peking to organize various kinds of subversion.

Observers have noted that this trend indicates that Peking's latest drive to intensify its diplomacy does not mean it is abandoning its attempt to forcefully plant the Maoist concepts in many of its neighboring countries.

This can be proven by the recent visit of China's deputy premier, Teng Hsiao-ping, to Burma. Despite a friendship treaty and other agreements concluded between China and Burma in the 1960's, Peking continues its political and material support to the Burmese rebels, who are trying to overthrow the legitimate Burmese Government.

Peking believes that it can ridicule normal international relations as long as they do not conform to the foreign policy of the present Chinese leadership. The chance is indeed very slim that friendly countries would approve such an attitude, and, in this context, the apprehension voiced in Indonesia on prospects of restoring diplomatic relations with China is quite logical.

COMMENT ON KERR'S RESIGNATION FROM UNESCO

OW1214212Y Moscow in English to Australia and New Zealand 0800 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Igor Bestuzev commentary]

[Text] The mass media and leading politicians in Australia are still commenting on the resignation of the former governor general, John Kerr, from the post of the country's delegate at UNESCO. It is easy to see, our observer Igor Bestuzev says, why the resignation of John Kerr, just as his earlier appointment to his post by Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, has had such a wide response from Australians. Many there still remember the role the former governor general played in ousting the Labor government in 1975. Having deposed the Gough Whitlam government John Kerr did a big service to the coalition of the liberals and the country party.

And now, as local observers note, the ruling parties decided to thank the former governor general for his services. In addition to his pension of 33,000 dollars a year he received a high diplomatic post with the annual pay of nearly 30,000 dollars plus 18,000 worth of special allowances. The Prime minister firmly discarded the charge as nonsense. Yet THE AGE of Melbourne, among other papers, did not find this refutation convincing enough. The appointment of John Kerr to UNESCO, the papers argued, created a dangerous precedent which could be used by governor generals to get highly paid posts in exchange for services they rendered to influential political parties.

In the end John Kerr chose to resign, which in fact was the only thing he could do. Criticism against him and the ruling coalition was too strong to be ignored. Some people in Australia feel, and it is hard to disagree with them, that the conservative leaders are pleased with Kerr's latest move. They were scared by the wave of public outcry over the decision to appoint Kerr to UNESCO, and now hope that this wave will subside. The hopes, of course, are not entirely groundless. But it should be remembered that the appointment of John Kerr did a serious damage to the ruling coalition and that its consequences are likely to be felt for a long time. That appointment reminded the Australians that the coalition removed the Whitlam government in a way anything but democratic. The labor had obtained their mandate for governing the country from the electors after polling a majority of seats in the house of representatives. Now that mandate was taken away from them by a governor general who, while acting in the interest of the conservatives, secured his high post without any sanction from the electors.

Those actions of the governor general led many in Australia to doubt they were living in a democratic society. They came to see that the system of representative democracy they used to be so proud of since school years have been heavily curtailed. They saw that there are many loopholes in the system which can be used to ignore the will of electors demanding reform. They found out that a ruling party working for reform can be easily ousted and another government advocating a return to the past can be put in its place.

As a result of this feeling of disappointment with the system of representative democracy more and more Australians have begun to demand a revision of the Constitution. A conference held in Melbourne late last year demanded an end to monarchy, and to the privileges enjoyed by a governor general. That was a representative forum and many of the statements made there had a large-scale positive response in the country. The movement for a revision of the Constitution is gaining strength and there's no doubt that the incident with John Kerr's appointment will speed up its process which is unfavorable for the coalition.

It is hardly a secret to anyone in Australia that both parties of the coalition are closely linked with big business. It is to protect its interests that they were struggling for power in 1975 and their present policy is also geared to the interest of big business. The corporations are pleased with the present Constitution and the rightwing parties accordingly seek to keep it.

Taken in this context the growing movement for a revision of the country's fundamental law undermines the positions of the conservative coalition and challenges the omnipotence of the corporations.

UNESCO REGIONAL CONFERENCE OPENS IN BANGKOK

LD0711154Y Moscow TASS in English 1033 GMT 7 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bangkok, March 7, TASS--The 34th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific opened here today. It is attended by delegates from 43 states of the region and observers from the USSR, USA, PRC, Vietnam, Laos and other countries. The agenda of this session, which will last until March 17, includes several important questions relating to the economy, trade and development of the countries of the Asian-Pacific region.

MARCOS CITES U.S. INTERFERENCE IN PHILIPPINES POLITICS

LD0607587 Moscow TASS in English 0743 GMT 6 Mar 78

[Text] Singapore, March 6, TASS--President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos has accused the United States of interference into the Philippines' internal affairs and the attempt to use the opposition circles as proponents of its policy towards that country. Speaking at an election meeting in Quezon City, not far from Manila, President Marcos said that the overseas politicians are giving support to the Philippine opposition in order to strengthen their positions at negotiations on revision of the inequitable agreement on American military bases in the Philippines.

U.S.-ROK EXERCISES POSE THREAT OF NEW ASIAN CONFLICT

OW130619Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 0830 GMT 11 Mar 78 OW

[Text] The United States has moved military units from America and Japan to take part in an exercise in South Korea in which more than 100,000 men are participating. Commentator Vladimir Korolev comments on this subject:

This demonstration of military strength has inevitably aroused the apprehension of all people striving for a fair settlement of the Korean question. A statement issued by the DPRK Foreign Ministry notes that this military maneuver, the biggest exercise held by the United States and the Seoul regime since the Korean War, is aimed at maintaining tension on the Korean Peninsula and threatens peace in Asia and the world. Protected by U.S. rulers, the Seoul regime is a dangerous provocateur responsible for the ever-present tension in the Far East. The United States has already spent approximately $6 billion to build gigantic military bases in South Korea. It has also promised to give the Seoul regime an additional $2 billion or so in the next 4 years. It is noteworthy that the United States is currently making great efforts to strengthen the Washington-Tokyo-Seoul tripartite alliance. U.S. rulers expect Japan to contribute to South Korea's militarization and more actively support the provocative intrigues of the Seoul regime. These efforts by the United States seem to be somewhat successful. According to various Tokyo press reports, the Seoul regime will receive $3 billion in financial aid from Japan by 1981, largely for military purchases.

Japanese newspapers also report U.S. use of bases in Japan to carry out landing operations in the current exercise. The JCP has severely criticized the Japanese Government for allowing U.S. military forces to use Japanese territory in moving their units for this exercise. In a recent memorandum, the DPRK Government denounced the collusion among U.S. rulers, Japanese authorites and the Seoul regime against peace in Korea and for the deepening of Korea's division. The memorandum stressed that the presence of U.S. forces in South Korea and South Korea's militarization pose the threat of a new military conflict. The future of the Korean people, who desire the reunification of their country, is connected with peace in Asia and the smooth development of detente. Everything that stands in the way of this should be removed and the Korean people should be allowed to solve the problems of their own country without any outside intervention.

Japanese Press Reaction

LD131208Y Moscow TASS in English 1148 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tokyo, March 13, TASS--"We strongly condemn the joint American-South Korean exercises as damaging to the cause of peace and security in Japan and Asia and being a serious challenge to the broad segments of the Japanese people which strive for Japan's genuine independence and democratic development," the newspaper AKAHATA writes in its editorial article. The specificity of the military exercises that are being held in South Korea from March, is in their unprecedented scale and the utilisation of a tremendous amount of armaments and military equipment designed for nuclear strikes, the paper notes. The Midway aircraft carrier and other ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, the Lance missiles and 120 planes used in the exercises are means for a nuclear offensive. The extreme danger posed to Japan is that most of these nuclear weapons were transferred to South Korea from U.S. military bases in Japan or via them.

The Japanese Government, AKAHATA points out, has taken the stand of giving every assistance to the exercises. The American authorities behave as though everything is permitted to them and, as admitted by the Japanese Foreign Ministry, even did not inform the Japanese Government that the Lance missiles, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, were delivered to the site of the exercises via the U.S. Yokota military base in Japan. These actions by the United States and the Japanese Government's position, the paper notes, turn into an empty phrase the thesis about "preliminary consultations" contained in the Japanese-American security treaty and allow for full freedom of action by U.S. armed forces stationed on Japanese territory in the event of hostilities. Noting the Japanese people's growing alarm about the future of the country, AKAHATA stresses that responsibility for the dangerous consequences of the policy of strengthening the Japanese-American military alliance and Japan's further involvement in U.S. nuclear strategy rests with the government of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party.

ACADEMIC, PRESS OPPOSITION TO JAPAN-PRC TREATY CITED

OW1114083Y Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 9 Mar 78 OW

[Tokyo correspondent Yavetov]

[Text] Keio University Professor Tadao Ishikawa, explaining why he insists that Japan exercise prudence in concluding a peace and friendship treaty with China, wrote in his article contributed to SANKEI SHIMBUN: At stake is a bilateral treaty and it is undoubtedly inappropriate to have an antihegemony clause, which is directed against a third country, inserted in it. Moreover, the meaning of this clause is in itself ambiguous and risky. Professor Ishikawa raised doubts about the stability of the incumbent regime in China and expressed the view that Japan should conclude a treaty with China only after political life in that country has been stabilized.

The magazine DIAMOND further developed Professor Ishikawa's commentary. An article dealing with Peking's three-worlds theory and hegemony clause said: Japan's Constitution states in its preamble, We are determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. China's hegemonistic plans as revealed in its three-worlds theory undoubtedly violate Japan's Constitution. According to Peking's three-worlds theory, the Soviet Union and the United States belong to the First World, Japan and other advanced capitalist countries to the Second World and China and other developing countries to the Third World. Peking's propaganda media maintain that the Third World should enter into temporary alliance with the Second World and fight against the two superpowers--the Soviet Union and the United States. The article noted that the political situation in China has not yet been stabilized and said that Teng Hsiao-ping's reinstatement only showed the weakness of the Hua Kuo-feng regime. In other words, Hua Kuo-feng allied with the Teng Hsiao-ping faction under the stress of unavoidable necessity and, therefore, the alliance is unnatural and cannot last long. The magazine concluded [as heard] that it is dangerous for Japan to conclude a peace and friendship treaty with the unstable regime in Peking. The article continued: Let us take a look at the hegemony clause. Although Japan says that it will not take any joint action with China, China is certain to impose the antihegemony clause upon Japan according to its interpretation when it suits Peking's convenience. However, when it does not suit its convenience, China will ignore Japan's interpretation even though it may be justifiable. Taking this view, there is nothing but harm--and no merit at all--in concluding the proposed Japan-China peace and friendship treaty. The article then addressed a question to the Japanese politicians who try to approach Peking without any principles by asking, do those who promote the conclusion of the Japan-China peace and friendship treaty have a long-range love for the country?

CPSU CC APPROVES RESULTS OF BUDAPEST MEETING

LD101915Y Moscow TASS in English 1906 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

["At the CPSU Central Committee"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--The CPSU Central Committee has studied the results of the conference of secretaries of the Central Committees of the communist and workers' parties of socialist countries, held in Budapest from 27 February to 1 March 1978, and approved the Soviet delegation's activities. Appropriate departments and organizations are instructed to take measures to implement the recommendations that were agreed upon at the conference and are directed at the further development of the ideological cooperation of the fraternal parties.

REPUBLICS' DRAFT CONSTITUTIONS TO BE PUBLISHED SOON

LD101604Y Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10 TASS--Drafts of new constitutions of the union Soviet republics will be published for nationwide discussion in the near future. This was proposed to the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the republics by the commissions on drafting these documents. The commissions will also consider proposals and amendments introduced by the working people to the drafts in the process of discussion. The most valuable of them will be reflected in Soviet laws.

On October 7 last year the new Constitution of the USSR was adopted. It reflected the epoch of developed socialism in the country. All 15 union republics will gear their constitutions to the basic law of the USSR.

As was noted by the newspaper PRAVDA recently, the new constitutions of the republics will promote perfection of Soviet legislation, further development of socialist democracy.

The rights of the union republics are ensured by real constitutional guarantees. The territory of the union republic may not be altered without its consent. A union republic shall determine its division into territories, regions, areas, and districts. It has the right to enter into relations wwth foreign states, to conclude treaties with them and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives, and to take part in the work of international organizations. Each union republic shall retain the right freely to secede from the USSR. But during the existence of the USSR none of the republics [has] raised the question of secession. The reason is that in the Soviet state there are no forces that would be interested in separating republics from the Soviet Union. All the republics have one and the same ultimate goal--construction of communism. Each of them is equally interested in a steady economic and socio-cultural development of the whole union.

SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDIUM RATIFIES AIR ACCORD CHANGES

LD091203Y Moscow TASS in English 1157 GMT 9 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 9, TASS--The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR decreed on March 6, 1978, to ratify the protocol on amendments in the convention on international civil aviation, signed in Montreal on September 30, 1977.

OBKOM LEADER FIRED FOR AGRICULTURAL MISMANAGEMENT

LD111652Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A plenum of the Tambovskaya Obkom was held today. It discussed the decision of the CPSU Central Committee on the Tambovskaya Obkom's management of agriculture. The plenum noted that the level of work by the obkom in managing agriculture does not meet the demands of the 25th party congress and the plans of the CPSU Central Committee. It also does not insure efficient utilization of the great opportunities the oblast possesses for considerably increasing the production and procurement of agricultural products. Some raykoms were criticized for omissions in organizational and educational work.

Sharp criticism was voiced at the plenum regarding the obkom bureau and First Secretary Comrade Chernyy. It was pointed out that voluntary methods often prevailed and elements of bureaucratic administration were often displayed in managing agriculture. The plenum stressed that the obkom bureau did not draw the necessary conclusions from the CPSU Central Committee decision on the state of criticism and self-criticism in Tambovskaya Obkom. Concrete measures were mapped out for mobilizing obkom organizations, kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers and specialists for the practical implementation of the directives of the 25th party congress, decisions of the CPSU Central Committee plena and instructions by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, on questions concerning the development of the economy.

The plenum released Comrade Chernyy from his duties as first secretary of Tambovskaya Obkom for serious shortcomings in managing the obkom's work, particularly in the agricultural sphere. Comrade Khomyakov, who was second secretary of Krasnodarskiy Kraykom, was elected first secretary of Tambovskaya Obkom.

RADIO REPORTS ON AGRICULTURAL PROCESS FOR 9-12 MAR

LD110726 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 9 March, in reporting on farming efforts in the USSR, notes that snow retention work has been carried out on 600,000 hectares in Ryazanskaya Oblast, which is 100,000 more than planned. At 1530 GMT on the same day, the radio reports that the area to be sown with spring crops in Chechen-Ingushskaya ASSR this year will be increased by 40,000 hectares over last year.

At 1730 GMT on 10 March, the radio notes that the first 30,000 hectares have been sown with summer crops in Tadzhikistan. The report adds that this year cotton will be sown on 280,000 hectares in Tadzhikistan. At 0500 GMT on 11 March the radio reports that 25 million hectares have been sown to summer crops in Kazakhstan. In the lower Volga area about 5 million hectares are to be in Saratovskaya Oblast. At 1100 GMT, the radio says that in Central Asia, the Transcaucasus and southern rayons of the Ukraine and Northern Caucasus, work has begun on the orchards and vineyards. The radio also reports that vegetables are being planted and that oats, barley and other early crops are being sown. Fieldwork, however, has been interrupted in the last few days because of cold weather and rain. The radio also says that the main task of the region is to increase grain production and that gross output of grain must be at least 220 million tons. The RSFSR has promised 130 million tons; the Ukraine 48-49 million, and Kazakhstan, 26-27 million. At 1200 GMT, the radio notes that grain growers in several areas of Altayskiy Kray have completed preparations for sowing seeds. This year, sowing of especially valuable and promising strains of wheat, oats and barley will be twice as great as last year. At 2200 GMT on 12 March, the radio reports that fieldwork has not yet begun on farms in Rostovskaya Oblast. This year, the farmers intend to gather in at least 8 million tons of grain and sell 4 million tons to the state.

COSMOS-993 LAUNCHED; EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONING NORMALLY

LD101522Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1516 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 10 March--Cosmos-993, the latest artificial earth satellite, was launched in the Soviet Union today. Scientific equipment intended for continuing outer space research is installed on board the satellite.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution--89.7 minutes; maximum distance from the earth's surface--368 kilometers; minimum--182 kilometers; inclination of orbit--72.9 degrees.

The equipment is functioning normally.

FURTHER DETAILS OF SOYUZ-28 RETURN TO EARTH 10 MAR

LD141440Y Moscow TASS in English 1434 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10, TASS--After the successful completion of the programme of the work on board the orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Soyuz-28, the international crew consisting of Aleksey Gubarev of the USSR and Vladimir Remek of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic returned today to earth. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko continue working on board the orbital station Salyut-6.

The descent craft of the Soyuz-28 ship landed in the preset area of the Soviet Union's territory 310 kilometres west of the town of Tselinograd. The cosmonauts feel well.

In the preset time, Soyuz-28 undocked from the orbital complex. In accordance with the programme the ship decelerated and its compartments were separated. A parachute system was set in operation after the controlled flight of the descent craft. The engines of soft-landing were switched on near the ground and the descent craft soft-landed.

A cycle of astronomic explorations was carried out during the work of the two crews on board the orbital complex. The cosmonauts observed and photographed various areas of the earth's surface to study natural resources.

During the flight that lasted seven days, Yuriy Romanenko, Georgiy Grechko, Aleksey Gubarev and Vladimir Remek also carried out joint technological and medical-biological experiments. They studied, specifically, the effect of weightlessness on the growth of semi-conductor crystals and on the development of lower plant organisms.

Materials with the results of the research and experiments that were prepared by scientists of the USSR and Czechoslovakia and carried out jointly by the cosmonauts, as well as materials containing scientific information received during the preceding flight of the orbital station Salyut-6 were brought to the ground.

The international space experiment that has been concluded successfully opens a qualitatively new stage of socialist integration in exploration of outer space.

The making of international space flights is concrete implementation of the course of the 25th CPSU Congress at all-round widening and deepening of economic scientific and technical cooperation with fraternal socialist countries.

SALYUT-6 COSMONAUTS CARRY OUT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

LD111038Y Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 11, TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre: Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been working in the near earth outer space for three months now. The working day on board the Salyut-6, the 92nd in number, began at eight o'clock in the morning and will end as usual at 23 hours of Moscow time.

Under the programme, the crew are having complex medical examinations today. The cosmonauts are researching into the reaction of the cardio-vascualr system to the imitation of the effect of hydro static pressure. The research is being carried out by means of the pressurized suit Chibis. The registration of physiological parameters is done by means of [the] multifunctional apparatus Polynome-2M.

The experiment is being carried out with the aim of evaluating the state of orthostatic stability of cosmonauts in conditions of long orbital flight. The crew are also doing physical exercises in the complex trainer.

According to the data of telemetric information and reports of the crew, the onboard systems of the station and the spaceship are functioning normally. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko feel well.

Cosmonauts in Good Health

LD121316Y Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 12, TASS--A TASS correspondent reports from the Flight Control Centre: The orbital flight of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 space research complex is going on.

The 93rd working day of the crew on board the complex began at eight a.m. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko, after the monitoring of the onboard systems, morning toilet, and breakfast, performed the planned station-servicing operations.

Under the programme for research in natural resources, the cosmonauts watch and photograph individual areas of the Soviet Union's territory. During the day the cosmonauts do physical exercises on the full-scale trainer as well as with the use of the Chibis pneumo-vacuum suit, which creates negative pressure in the lower part of the body.

According to the results of the comprehensive medical examination carried out yesterday, the state of the cosmonauts' health is good. Yuriy Romanenko's pulse rate is 66 and Georgiy Grechko's 70 beats per minute. Arterial pressure is 140 by 60 and 135 by 55 millimetres of the mercury column respectively. The comprehensive medical examination again confirmed that the indicators of the cardiovascular system are practically at a stable level. The cosmonauts feel well and their working capacity remains good.

According to telemetry data and crew reports, the onboard systems of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 orbital complex are functioning normally.

COSMONAUTS EXCEED U.S. SPACE RECORD BY 10 PERCENT

LD130450Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0205 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Today is the 94th day of work in earth orbit for the crew of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 orbital research complex. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have exceeded the official record for space flight duration, which was held by the United States astronauts of the Skylab station, by 10 percent. According to the rules of the International Aviation Authority, a new record for duration of stay in space can only be registered when the previous achievement has been exceeded by at least 10 percent.

The flight of the station is going according to schedule, the onboard systems are functioning normally, and the cosmonauts are feeling well.

SPACE STATION BEING DEACTIVATED FOR RETURN TO EARTH

LD131120Y Moscow in English to North America 1000 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] As they prepare to return to earth, the Soviet Cosmonauts Yuriy Romananko and Georgiy Grechko have begun to deactivate the Salyut orbital station. They have been working aboard it for 93 days.

On Sunday, the cosmonauts did a lot of physical exercises. They are using special suits which create a negative pressure for the legs and imitate earth conditions. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko reported after a medical check-up that they feel well and remain fit for work.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION PREPARES TO RETURN S FALL APPROACHES

LD071103Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[A. Viktorov report: "The Antarctic Has Said Good-by to Summer"]

[Text] The 23d Soviet Antarctic Expedition's seasonal work on the icy continent is ending in Antarctica, where fall has arrived and temperatures have dropped sharply.

Research has ended in the region of the Filcher Ice Shelf. The members of the scientific teams have returned to the Druzhnaya seasonal base. Using helicopters and snow vehicles, they compiled a geological cross-section of a large tract of land made up of Magma residue, the age of which is set at 300 million years. They succeeded in assembling a unique collection of rocks and determining the structure of the Shackleton Range.

The geologists, geophysicists and geodesists are preparing for the closure of the Druzhba seasonal base. They will soon return home on board the diesel ship Estoniya.

A convoy with tracked and runnered vehicles that left Mirnyy station and reached Vostok station, near the earth's cold pole, has successfully completed its trip. On its outward journey alone the convoy traveled about 1,500 km across icy desert. It brought members of the polar expedition equipment, fuel and construction material for new installations at the station. Those taking part in the trip have now started off on the return journey under difficult weather conditions with 50-degree frosts, blizzards and snowfalls.

The program of observations by the three scientific groups which set off along various Antarctic routes in snow vehicles have also been successfully completed. New magnetic variation stations have been installed along the way.

REGULAR AIRLIFTS TO ARCTIC STATIONS BEGIN 10 MAR

LD1019l4Y Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Leningrad, March 10 TASS--Members of the aerial high-latitude expedition North-30 will deliver more than sixty tons of foodstuffs and scientific equipment for polar explorers at the Soviet drifting stations North Pole-22 and North Pole-23 in the heart of the Arctic. Today regular flights were started to the ice floes on which the settlements of the explorers are set up.

The complexity of the new season of traditional spring flights over the polar basin is compounded by the great distance of the drifting stations from the continent, said the prominent Arctic explorer Ilya Romanov. The distance to each of the stations now is more than 2,500 kilometers. One of the stations is in the area of Beaufort Sea near the North Canadian Archipelago while the other is approaching the geographical point of the North Pole. We believe that this will be the third instance in the history of Soviet polar studies when a "North Pole" drifting station will so literally justify its name, Romanov noted.

PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR FIRST HIGH-LATITUDE CONVOY

LD101916Y Moscow TASS in English 1646 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 10 TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Leonidov writes: All/round preparations have been started for the first high-latitude sailing by a Soviet transport caravan in May-June of this year. The optimum route for Murmansk (Barents Sea) to the Far East has been determined for the atomic icebreaker Sibir and a cargo vessel. The Soviet Aeroflot has drawn a programme of giving the caravan air support, paying the main attention to reliable scouting of the icefields that it may encounter.

The organizers of the sailing have taken into account the experience of the world's first sailing of a surface ship, the atomic icebreaker Arktika, to the North Pole in August 1977. That sailing through ice up to four meters thick demonstrated that ships of the Arktika and Sibir type with engines of 75,000 h.p. can solve any tasks in the high latitudes.

The Murmansk-Far East sailing is part of the programme of experiments in the Arctic conducted with the aim of finding the shortest, hence the cheapest routes for the carriage of freight in polar waters. The importance of perfecting Arctic freight carriage was emphasised at the 25th CPSU Congress. It was noted at the congress that freight turnover in that area is to grow five-six times in the near future. Along the North Sea route Soviet ships deliver all the necessary goods to the inhabitants of towns and settlements beyond the polar circle and also timber, ore and other goods to European ports.

The dual task is being solved of cutting costs of sea operations in the Arctic and of extending the period of navigation. This year, for instance, the last ship sailed into Murmansk on February 11 and already a week later the atomic icebreaker Sibir left for its first sailing to the Yamal Peninsula. So Soviet Arctic navigation has actually become a year-round navigation.

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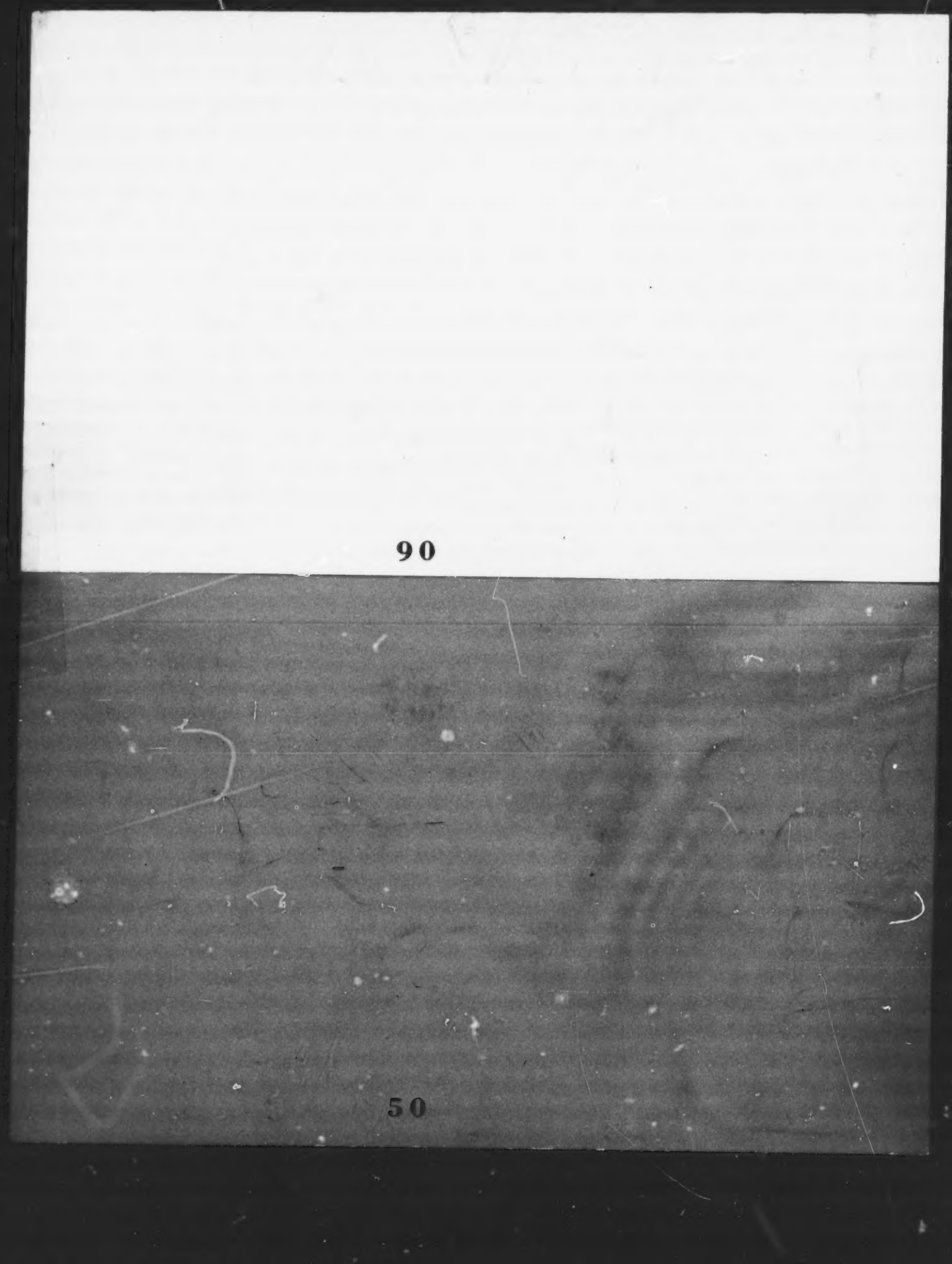
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